Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 83 | **MONDAY** APRIL 9, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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POLL RESULTS

Do you intend to sign the petition to put Article 12 on the ballot this November?

Yes	71
No	49
Maybe	5
Undecided	6

Sunday, April 8, 2012

INSIDE

NATION

A Navy jet slams into an apartment complex. How is it that everyone survived? ➤ PAGE 14

FOCUS

Apple is on the verge of doing what few others have: change the English language. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Heidi Klum moves to formally end her marriage from singer Seal. ➤ PAGE 20

Saipan senatorial bet's campaign manager quits. PAGE 3

Kilili-Fitial spat may have started with request to repeal CNRA. PAGE 6

New signature drive to place Article 11 question on ballot

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Another signature campaign is being launched to help put on the Nov. 6 ballot a popular initiative to amend Article 11 of the NMI Constitution, particularly to include a provision to pay people of Northern Marianas descent dividends from public land revenues.

» To pay NMDs dividends from public lands revenues

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is spearheading the signature drive.

Article 11 says public lands belong collectively

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This man reaches for the rope to tie the wooden cross in place last April 6, Good Friday. The wooden cross, measuring 27 feet tall and spanning 14 feet wide, arrived at the base of Mt. Tapochao at about 6:20am and was carried up the peak by about 20 to 25 men as part of a long-standing religious tradition.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

RELATED NEWS

➤ 'Let's all work toward unity this Easter and beyond' PAGE 2

Tom Palacios: The craftsman behind the cross

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Every Good Friday for the last 34 years, the Christian faithful on Saipan have been witnessing male parishioners plant a wooden cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochao to honor Christ's death on the cross.

This Good Friday cross tradition, which was initiated by Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, continues even after Camacho's retirement, under the craftsmanship of Tom Palacios, who has been making the cross for 32 years and counting. This year, his creation measures 27 feet tall and has an arm span of 14 feet.

"Jesus sacrificed his life for us 2,000 years ago, and 32 years is not even enough to repay that," Palacios said in an interview after the cross was erected at the Mt. Tapochao summit last Friday.

While he prepares the cross, Palacios revealed that a group of parishioners actively take part in the entire process, from picking out that perfect ironwood deep in the island's lush jungles to the cutting and shaping of the actual cross.

The process, Palacios noted, is a lot more complicated than one would think. "Trees can be tricky. They may look straight but once you cut it down, it becomes crooked." Building the cross would take about a day or two to finish, he added.

For Palacios, the cross that he

See TOM on Page 4

Kilili cautions Fitial on proposed renegotiation of Tinian land lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may have gone too far in asking for a renegotiation of the CNMI's 100-year Tinian land lease agreement with the U.S. military, which he described as a "tongue-in-cheek" request to renegotiate the Covenant at a time when preparation for the training on Tinian of over 200 U.S. Marines from Japan is now in full throttle. This military training from May to June is dubbed "Exercise Geiger Fury MAG-12."

» Prep for training of over 200 Marines on Tinian in high gear

See KILILI on Page 4

Garapan sewer line collapses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A dilapidated sewer line in Garapan collapsed last week, resulting in the relocation of the popular Garapan Street Market until the problem is addressed.

» Thursday Street Market to be relocated

Alan Fletcher, deputy executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., said the collapsed sewer pipe is located between two manholes on Coral Tree Avenue fronting the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt

See SEWER on Page 4

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Parishioners involved in the Good Friday cross tradition pose for a group photo at the foot of the wooden cross last April 6, Good Friday.

Local

'Let us all work toward unity this Easter and beyond'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Christians in the CNMI and throughout the world celebrated Easter Sunday yesterday, commemorating the resurrection of Christ and culminating the 40-day Lenten observance.

While many marked Easter Sunday with egg hunts and bunnies, a majority still maintained the solemnity of this miraculous occasion, with the faithful attending Mass to rejoice in Christ's return to life.

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa joined the island's faithful in remembering the miracle of Easter, calling on the community to "work together toward unity" during Easter and throughout the year.

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the diocese, said in his Easter message that efforts toward unity should begin at home, which he calls a mini-Church where values are initially formed with the help of parents.

Jimenez said that unity should spread in workplaces and the rest of the community. "The common good of the home, of the parishes, of the diocese, and of the [CNMI] are better achieved through the spread and practice of the Good News through unity."

Yet Jimenez noted that spreading unity comes with challenges "and it is my prayer for all of us that through the hope of Christ and His teachings in our homes, we will work together to nurture and deepen our faith."

In a separate statement, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos wish everyone in the islands a blessed and joyous Easter and greater health and success all through the year.

According to Fitial, Easter is "a celebration of new life and renewed hope" and urged everyone to "reflect not on the challenges we have faced, but on hope for a brighter tomorrow."

"As families and friends gather in thanksgiving, it is my fervent hope that all our leaders will be reinvigorated by the spirit of renewal so that we may continue to work for the best interest of our community," he added.

'Good Friday annual trek'

The observance of Lent on Saipan would not have been complete without the annual pilgrimage to Mt. Tapochao by thousands of Christian faithful on Good Friday.

This year, many of those who trudged the rock-strewn path to the island's highest point came as early as 2am, with some doing the trail Thursday night to avoid the mass of walkers.

Friday's weather was perfect for the trek, which was highlighted by the raising of a giant wooden cross by parishioners and devotees from Mt. Carmel Cathedral and the Kristo Rai Church.

The wooden cross, measuring 27 feet tall and spanning 14 feet wide, arrived at the base of Mt. Tapochao at about 6:20am and was carried up the peak by about 20 to 25 men as part of a long-standing religious tradition.

Along the Mt. Tapochao trail were at least three tents, including that of the American Red Cross – NMI Chapter and the United Filipino Organization. The tents offered hikers free refreshments, including water, coffee, fresh fruits, sandwiches, boiled eggs and congee.

The cross was finally raised up at the summit of Mt. Tapochao at about 8am, an hour or two earlier than its usual schedule. An Easter Eucharistic celebration was also held at the site yesterday.

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Saipan senatorial bet's campaign manager quits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Kimo M. Rosario quit as campaign manager for Saipan senatorial candidate Illuminanda R. Bermudes on Saturday, three days after assistant campaign manager John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales was picked by the governor's Republican Party to run as delegate.

Rosario and Gonzales could end up being on opposite side of the fence once Gonzales decides to accept the GOP's nomination to run as Republican delegate candidate because Rosario is a strong supporter of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking a third term.

Bermudes, or "Lumi" as she is fondly called, said yesterday she respects Rosario's decision to step down as her campaign manager.

Bermudes, who is running as an independent candidate, also said she respects whatever Gonzales' decision will be.

"I don't believe their decisions are going to affect my campaign," Bermudes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Bermudes, the current program manager of the Public School System's Chamorro Language and Heritage Studies, said she will be meeting with her campaign committee on Tuesday night to decide on Rosario's replacement as campaign manager.

She also said that Gonzales has not communicated yet whether he will stay on as her vice campaign manager once he decides to run as delegate.

Rosario, in a statement issued on Saturday, said, "After considerable thought and much reflection, it is with a heavy heart that I inform this Committee of my decision to step down as its chairman."

"I come to realize that, not only am I unfit to lead Lumi's campaign, I don't possess the drive, energy, and patience to deal with the issues and intricacies of local politics—which apparently has not changed a bit. Therefore, not only have I decided to remove myself from this committee, I've also decided to quit CNMI politics altogether," Rosario said.

Rosario said that Bermudes' campaign team is composed of "great, dynamic group of individuals" that "deserve a chairman who's 100 percent committed to the cause and all the great things it represents and at this point, I am not that person."

"With this, it has indeed been a pleasure and honor working with you and I wish you and Lumi nothing but the best. And to dismiss any misleading information or twisted facts that abound, I want to go on record and state that, 'I am voting for Illuminanda Reyes Bermudes for Senate and that she's the ONLY person thus far who has earned my vote in the upcoming election.' Lumi has the heart and passion to serve our Commonwealth and these are critical traits of a great leader," Rosario said.

Bermudes is one of four candidates to date vying for a Saipan senatorial seat. The three others are incumbent Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) who will run under Fitial's Republican Party; Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) who will run as an independent; and former representative Ana Teregeyo, who is running under the Covenant Party.

Govt credit union board left with only one member

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union is now operating with only one member on its board following the expiration of the terms of its two directors last month.

Saipan Tribune learned that only the representative from Rota, Patricia Songsong, is currently onboard after the terms of former colleagues Arsenia Borja and Angel Hocog expired a few weeks ago.

Angel Hocog was the last chairman of the board and Ruth Ann Sakisat is the union's manager.

Last Friday, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that the governor is in the process of naming appointees to the credit union board.

"The governor is in the process of considering candidates to be nominated to the CGCU board. Once he makes his nomination[s], I will advise you accordingly," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The union is a member-owned, nonprofit cooperative financial institution formed to permit those in the field of membership to pool their savings, lend them to one another, and own the organization where they save, borrow and obtain related financial services.

It was formed in February 1995 by virtue of a public law and which requires that the union be administered by a board of directors consisting of five members appointed by the governor. Each member has a four-year term.

The union has funded its operations from a $2 million loan from the Retirement Fund. This loan has yet to be fully paid, according to Fund records. In December, the union asked the Fund for refinancing so it could continue and expand its program. This refinancing request was denied by the Fund board of trustees.

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Congressional Art COMPETITION
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Office of
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

2012 Congressional Art Competition - Northern Mariana Islands

Official Guidelines

The competition is open to students grades 9 through 12 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Artwork submitted must meet the following requirements in order to fit in the exhibit space at the U.S. Capitol:

- Artwork must be two dimensional.
- Dimensions cannot exceed 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, inclusive of the frame.
- Weight cannot exceed 15 lbs.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. Copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned earlier. Students should, therefore, submit work they will not need for other purposes during that time period.

- Accepted media are:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Paints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two media, such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc
  - Computer-generated art
  - Photography

Artwork must be submitted no later than
Friday, April 13, 2012

Entries can be hand-delivered or mailed to the congressional offices on Rota and Tinian, which are open Monday to Friday, from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saipan, which is also open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Rota Office
Songsong Village
P.O. Box 1361
Rota, MP 96951
Phone: (670) 532-2647

Tinian Office
San Jose
General Delivery
Tinian, MP 96952
Phone: (670) 433-2647

Saipan Office
JCT II Building, Susupe
P.O. Box 504879
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 323-2647/8

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayers expense.

TOM

From Page 1

makes each year to replace the one that's been erected on the island's highest point symbolizes faith, hope, and peace.

"As a Christian and as a part of this community, making the cross is something I do to help give hope to all the people on island," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*. "We should always remember that there is hope and that everybody should treat their neighbors well."

Palacios maintained that there is hope even in the current economic situation in the islands. What is needed, he said, is for the island leaders to work together to come up with a "sustainable economic strategy."

"If we do that, we can be self-sufficient. Our forefathers decided to become a Commonwealth because they believed that we can be self-sufficient but our leaders have turned away from that," he added.

Although tourism has been the CNMI's bread and butter industry, Palacios emphasized that focus should be given to agriculture because of its sustainability. And just like in agriculture, each and every one in the community must learn how to "plant something good that we can all remember."

When asked if he has any family member who will carry on his Good Friday legacy, Palacios said he considers all parishioners involved in making the cross and leading the observance of the most solemn event in Christianity as part of his family who will continue the tradition.

Among them is John Paul Sablan, who has been doing the Good Friday tradition for 14 years.

"It feels good knowing that I was among those who helped build the cross for the church and for the rest of all the Christian community on island," he said.

Sablan, who served as an altar boy when he was young, said that while Good Friday is a time to remember Christ's death on the cross to save mankind, the community as a whole should rejoice His coming back to life on Easter.

"Nothing is more magnificent than dying for all of us, that is why I ask all my Christian brothers and sisters to make their own contribution as we observe Holy Week each year. It's a once a year event for which we can all participate," added Sablan.

KILILI

From Page 1

MAG-12 stands for Marine Aircraft Group-12.

"The governor is essentially asking for the renegotiation of the Covenant," Sablan said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend. "And we need to be careful what we wish for. We might just get it."

Sablan, at the same time, commended Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz for his continued communication with the U.S. military to provide assistance in maintaining some portions of the leased land.

Dela Cruz earlier told the governor that there's no need to renegotiate the whole lease deal in light of the progress made by Tinian in military relations and the upcoming training of Marines from Japan, among other things.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Fitial wrote a Feb. 27 letter to U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, asking for the renegotiation of the existing lease accord because he said none of the promised developments on Tinian has materialized for 35 years. The Tinian mayor didn't know about the request letter until late-March.

These promised developments include economic benefits to Tinian from military use of the island like job creations, and that the removal of land from private use has inhibited economic development on the island.

Fitial has yet to hear from Panetta's office.

Sablan said he thinks Panetta would eventually respond to Fitial's letter but "I doubt very much that they would renegotiate the Covenant and I hope that this doesn't also sidetrack Mayor Dela Cruz's great start on his new effort."

The delegate said the military's Tinian lease agreement with the CNMI is a crucial part of the Covenant, which established the political relationship between the United States and the Northern Marianas.

"The reason why we're part of the United States is because of the strategic [military] importance they placed on us," Sablan added.

He said any renegotiation of the Covenant would require an act of Congress. He said it should also be done in consultation with the people of Tinian, its mayor and others in the CNMI, not just the governor.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan) said last night that he supports Fitial's request to renegotiate the land lease agreement, citing a lack of major military activities on Tinian that would economically benefit Tinian and the CNMI.

"I want it renegotiated, too," he said. "Just like what the governor said, none of the promised economic benefits came about for the people of Tinian."

San Nicolas said he supports the upcoming training of some 200 U.S. Marines on Tinian, but asked, "Where have these training been the past 35 years? I wish they started doing so over 30 years ago and continue doing so today. They have not done so."

Had the U.S. military used Tinian for training and other activities that will economically benefit the island, Tinian voters wouldn't have looked to a casino industry to help fuel its economy, he said.

"If the U.S. military does not have any major plans for Tinian, they should give back two-thirds of the island to the CNMI government so that my children and their children would see light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) separately said that Tinian would like a better understanding of what the U.S. military intends to do with two-thirds of the land on Tinian.

"When the mayor made the initial request, there was no concrete activity yet planned by the military. That has changed since then because they are going to train here starting in May," he said.

He said he understands where the mayor and the governor are coming from. "But I think for now, we should wait and see how this training goes about and whether this type of activity will continue. I am hoping this is the start of economic benefits to Tinian, by having this kind of training on island," he added.

Conner also said renegotiation of the military land lease doesn't necessarily mean renegotiation of the Covenant.

'Exercise Geiger Fury'

All these talks about renegotiation of the Commonwealth's lease agreement comes at a time when preparations for "Operation Geiger" are in full gear.

Over 200 U.S. Marines are expected to take part in the exercise, the first major U.S. military training exercise on Tinian in a decade.

Don Farrell, the Tinian mayor's point man on military affairs, said they have received a message from Iwakuni, Japan, advising the mayor that the CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer, Melvin Faisao, has signed off on the last permit necessary for their operation to proceed.

"MAG -12 operations on Tinian are a go," Farrell said.

Officials from Marine Aircraft Group-12 Japan again visited the CNMI on Wednesday to discuss the training exercise.

Farrell said those who met with the mayor on Tinian were Maj. Andrew Reed, USMC, MAG–12 operations officer, and Michael Vasquez, program manager for U.S. Forces, Japan, Aviation and Training Program.

Joining the mayor and the MAG-12 contingent were many of Tinian's vendors.

Farrell said that Vasquez advised the group that this project has a "buy local" policy and that he was on Tinian to begin the process of discovering what goods and services can be provided by local vendors to meet the needs of MAG-12 operations.

He said Reed announced that an advance team of 10 to 15 Marines would arrive on Tinian by air on May 1. This group will stay at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

"The first of two high speed vessels will arrive at Tinian dock on or about May 10 – 11, carrying about half the Marine Air Group – 12 expeditionary force. After unloading their vehicles, the air support group will proceed to North Field to establish their bivouac. The high speed vessel will return to Japan, and return with the rest of the 200 Marines to Tinian about July 3 (sic). Full scale operations will begin immediately," Farrell said in a statement over the weekend.

The Marines will begin leaving Tinian on or about June 3, with the final group leaving on June 10 to 11, he added.

Community projects

While on Tinian and when not involved in their own operations, Farrell said the Marines will participate in several community relations projects.

"The mayor's office is working with all local agencies, including the Public School System, to compile a wish list of projects that might be completed with the help of U.S. Marines, either on this exercise or in the future. Each agency must supply its own materials for the project. The Marines will supply the manpower," he said.

Some of MAG-12's medical doctors and dentists have been licensed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to provide voluntary services while on Tinian.

"Because of the amount of heavy equipment the Marines will be using to prepare their expeditionary air field at North Field, the mayor is hopeful that many long overdue roads and parks projects on both public and military leased lands might finally be completed," Farrell said.

Vendors who did not have the opportunity to attend Wednesday's meeting with Vasquez are urged to contact Jose Kiyoshi, Tinian's resident department head for Commerce, at tiniancommerce2011@yahoo.com.

The Tinian mayor hopes that the MAG-12 operation benefits not only Tinian, but the entire CNMI as well.

"Tinian is proud to be a constructive contributor to the CNMI economy. With support, we can and will do more to help resolve the economic crisis that has befallen the Commonwealth," Dela Cruz said in a statement.

Farrell said that virtually all consumer goods sold on Tinian come from a Saipan wholesaler, who already paid business gross revenues.

"All BGRs collected on Tinian as a result of this operation go directly to the CNMI general fund," he added.

Delegate Sablan also said the upcoming training of Marines is something that the military needs to do on Tinian right now.

"Is it a start of something? I cannot say, but it's something that's happening," the delegate added.

SEWER

From Page 1

Regency Saipan—the same location as the Thursday Street Market.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC is currently running a portable trash pump to divert wastewater from the blocked line. However, this is not a sustainable or desirable solution, especially located on Saipan's busy tourist areas surrounding the Paseo de Marianas.

According to Fletcher, the collapse occurred at a very inconvenient location, exactly below where Saipan's popular Street Market is held and within one of Saipan's busiest tourist areas. CUC is coordinating with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the temporary relocation of the Street Market. DCCA has yet to decide on a relocation site.

To repair this collapse, Fletcher said CUC has engaged the services of GPPC, Inc., to install new piping. The expected work was slated to begin last Saturday, April 7, and will run three to four weeks, costing $118,500.

It was learned that the collapsed sewer is a vintage '70s asbestos concrete pipe that has become worn to the point of collapse. CUC has experienced problems with similarly constructed sewer pipes throughout its service area. This experience has shown CUC that repairs are not feasible and only total replacement will ensure system integrity.

In a statement from CUC yesterday, the agency said that steps have been taken to expedite the emergency construction and is working extended hours. The CUC statement said that it and GPPC are committed to completing the project as quickly as possible.

CUC officials earlier disclosed that the status of the island's decades-old sewer system is a looming disaster that has the real potential of developing into a public health emergency. CUC has 3,000 sewer customers on island.

SIGNATURE

From Page 1

to the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Mariana Islands descent.

The title of the popular initiative that Tenorio is proposing is, "To amend Article XI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to assure that the revenues from public lands are used for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Mariana Islands descent and to provide for the payment of a dividend from such revenues to such people."

Tenorio, a former governor and House speaker, said on Saturday that he is circulating his Article 11 petition for signatures "in case the Senate does not approve the legislative initiative."

He was referring to a legislative initiative authored by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) that seeks to amend Article 11 to allow qualified hotels and golf courses currently leasing public lands to obtain fee simple interest in said public lands. House Local Initiative 17-10 has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Tenorio hopes that Rota and Tinian lawmakers will not block his Article 11 initiative.

"This will benefit all NMI descents, so I hope that Tinian and Rota don't act regional," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*. "The main feature is Section 5. The people are looking forward to finally receiving some benefits from the money that belongs to them."

Section 5 of the popular initiative states that within 60 days after the close of each fiscal year, Marianas Public Land Trust trustees shall determine the total market value of the trust's assets, exclusive of the value of the public lands, as of the last day of such fiscal year, "and shall, within 120 days after the close of such year, distribute 10 percent of such value as a dividend to the beneficiaries."

The date of record is the last day of such fiscal year.

Each beneficiary who has reached the age of 18 by the date of record shall receive a full share of the dividend, the proposed initiative states. Each beneficiary who has not reached 18 by such date shall receive a half share.

In the CNMI, net revenues from public lands are transferred to MPLT, which holds and invests such revenue, uses certain interest on its investments to develop and maintain the American Memorial Park, and, after meeting its administrative expenses, transfers the remaining interest to the general fund.

Tenorio, in his initiative, said NMD people are the presumed beneficiaries of the Trust, "but derive no particular benefit therefrom."

Besides the Article 11 popular initiative, there are two other popular initiatives now being circulated for signatures to be placed in the Nov. 6 ballot—the first one is a question on Article 12 and the other one is a question about legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

Article 12 prohibits ownership of private land by non-Northern Marianas descent people. The Citizens for Change of Article 12 launched the signature drive two weeks ago to lift this restriction on private land ownership.

The Saipan casino signature campaign backed by the Fitial administration is being led by retiree Dr. Jack Angello.

Angello, in a separate interview, said he hopes that as many Saipan voters will sign his petition to help restore 80 hours for many government employees and help prolong the life of the NMI Retirement Fund, among other things.

So far, only one initiative has so far reached the Commonwealth Election Commission for ratification by voters in the Nov. 6 polls—a legislative initiative to amend the Constitution to allow the election of a CNMI attorney general.

WORST-CASE SCENARIOS FOR FY 2013:

Consolidation of schools, work-hour cuts eyed for PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education is now carefully evaluating all possible ways on how public schools will survive next school year, when it expects to face greater challenges due to budget constraints, according to board chair Marylou S. Ada.

Ada told *Saipan Tribune* that Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and her management team will present this week at the board's fiscal and personnel affairs committee meeting the worst-case scenarios for the Public School System.

Among the items for discussion are the possible consolidation of small schools, work-hour reductions, and other streamlining measures that may be implemented across the board.

"We have to start thinking outside of the box on how we can survive next fiscal year. Without the needed budget for our schools, we have to evaluate and carefully look at all possible ways to continue to deliver educational services to our kids," she said.

Ada described as a big possibility the merger of small schools due to an expected decrease in enrollment number in some campuses due to the possible exodus of nonresident workers or those who may have lost their jobs due to the bad economy, as well as the relocation of many who want to seek work elsewhere.

If and when the board decides to implement a work-hour cut, Ada assured that she will make sure it's for everybody in the system—certified and non-certified.

She hinted that shutting some schools may also be enforced if the situation worsens. Among the programs that will also be affected by the lack of resources are competitions where CNMI delegates are sent to the national events.

Ada considers fiscal year 2013 as the toughest year for PSS in terms of its financial capabilities. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked the Legislature for a $30 million budget for public schools in fiscal year 2013. This amount is similar to what was approved for the current fiscal year, which is lesser than the $36 million the Board of Education asked for.

Ada revealed that the board and PSS are negotiating with federal grantor agencies to increase their annual federal assistance to public schools. PSS receives about $30 million a year in total federal assistance from regular grants.

Ada said this was the reason why Commissioner Sablan has been traveling to the United States lately—to get supplemental funding for public schools. So far, Ada said that Sablan has not obtained any assurances from these federal agencies of any increase in grant funds and that the board is counting on the will of President Barrack Obama to exempt education from further cuts.

Sablan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that she will be making a presentation to the board on the possible scenarios for PSS next school year. She declined to elaborate, citing the need to have it heard first by the board.

"Consolidation of small schools is always a possibility for PSS. However, I am not ready to discuss it yet. We have to be realistic and we have to make decisions," she said.

Last school year, PSS merged the Rota Junior and Senior High School and renamed the institution Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

According to Sablan, PSS always expects 5-percent growth in enrollment each year but due to several factors this time, she has no idea what the enrollment record next school year will be. PSS has over 10,000 students on three islands.

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Kilili-Fitial spat may have started with request to repeal federalization law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No one would mistake Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) for best friends. But have you ever wondered how the spat between two of the CNMI's highest elected officials started?

At least for Sablan, it may have begun when he turned down the governor's request for him to work on the repeal of the May 2008 law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, soon after Sablan's first win in November 2008 as the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The first thing he asked me was to repeal Public Law 110-229. And of course, that is not possible…I told him it's not possible…I told him it's not going to happen," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview over the weekend.

Sablan said the request from the governor came before he was sworn in as delegate.

Fitial was in Washington, D.C. in January 2009 but did not attend Sablan's inauguration, despite it being a historic moment for the CNMI.

The CNMI was the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation, albeit a nonvoting member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Through PL 110-229, the CNMI held its first delegate election and its immigration was placed under federal control.

Fitial and the Fitial administration could not be reached for comment.

Sablan said the other issue that may have also "angered" the governor was when he, along with other delegates from other territories, turned down Fitial's request to give the $44 million in State Fiscal Stabilization Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act directly to the governor, who in turn will give that money to schools.

"I and the other delegates from the other territories said 'no.' Those monies were going to the schools directly. But then of course, some money went to the governor—$8 million [under the law]… Because I knew that if the $44 million goes to him, the schools are not going to get it," he said.

That $8 million was distributed among other programs such as public health and public safety.

The rest is history.

Sablan said that on Veterans Day in November 2011, Fitial asked him to run as delegate for another term under the governor's Republican Party. That was around the time when the media was taking photos of the governor, the delegate, veterans and other local and visiting dignitaries during the Veterans Day ceremony at American Memorial Park in Garapan.

That was also the same day the governor was quoted as saying "drink milk" to long-time Republicans who didn't want the party's new leadership.

Sablan said the first thought that came into his mind when the governor said he wanted to talk to him was schools, food stamps or other pressing issues.

"But what he said was, 'I want you to be my candidate for delegate. I want you to run under the Republican Party,'" Sablan said. "I just smiled. I didn't know what to say. Not that I was going to say 'yes' but with all these problems and the first thing that came to his mind was politics."

Sablan said that since then, he understands that Fitial started asking people around to run as delegate under the GOP.

"And I understand his present choice is the fifth or sixth person he has asked," Sablan said, referring to John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales, who was nominated by Republicans on Wednesday night to run as delegate.

Gonzales, during the gathering at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai, asked for a week to make known his decision, although some party members said that Gonzales is "90 percent" accepting the nomination.

Sablan cited four reasons for not accepting the governor's offer to run under the Republican Party.

"One, I wouldn't run under his failed leadership. Two, I caucus with the Democrats in Congress. The Democrats in Congress are good for the Northern Mariana Islands. They are good with domestic programs that benefit the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said.

He cited as an example the Republicans' proposal to close down the U.S. Department of Education.

"Why? That's their philosophy. That education should be a state matter. And when we get tens of millions of dollars for school kids here, how can I join him?" Sablan said.

His last reason is that he will continue to run as an independent candidate.

"I ran as an independent since the first race, I remain as an independent. I welcome the endorsement and support of the political parties and other candidates," he added.

Sablan was recently endorsed by the Covenant Party, whose titular head is now Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Sablan and Fitial don't see eye to eye on a host of issues, including the federalization of immigration and the national food stamp program.

Day of Valor remembers the Fall of Bataan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos all over the world today mark the 69th commemoration of *Araw ng Kagitingan* or Day of Valor, a day that Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. described as "one of the darkest moments of our nation's history."

Araw ng Kagitingan or Day of Valor is the national holiday that honors the 75,000 Filipino and American soldiers under the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East that surrendered to the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

Cuisia, in his message to the Filipino community throughout the U.S., said the combined Filipino and U.S. forces surrendered to the Japanese "to prevent the inevitable massive loss of lives" following three months of "bloody and relentless" combat in the Bataan Peninsula.

After their surrender, the soldiers were unaware "that they would be consigning themselves to a cruel and brutal captor," enduring a 70-mile forced march, known as the Bataan Death March that saw thousands of these prisoners of war collapsing to death due to starvation or illness.

"Today we commemorate the Day of Valor—not to remember defeat, but to celebrate and perpetuate the valor of the defenders and their strong resolve to keep on fighting for their country and people despite the overwhelming adversity," said Cuisia.

Day of Valor, Cuisia said, also pays tribute to the sacrifices of Filipino veterans of World War II as they demonstrated their "unwavering commitment to defending the ideals of freedom and democracy, at whatever price."

"As Filipinos, we are fortunate to inherit a land that is free. We should value this freedom and pledge our commitment everyday that the sacrifices our forefathers made will always be remembered and honored," said Cuisia.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, for his part, said, "*Ating sariwain ang kabayanihan ng mga Pilipino na nagbuwis ng buhay at nagsakripisyo para sa diwa ng demokrasya at kasarinlan pitumpung taon na ang nakalipas sa makasaysayang bayan ng* Bataan at Corregidor."

Despite the holiday, the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will be open today from 9am to 4pm. It will resume its regular working hours of 8am to 6pm tomorrow, April 10.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2010-2014 and the Commonwealth's Program Year 2011 Annual Action Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2010-2014 and the Commonwealth's Program Year 2011 Annual Action Plan. The amendment provides the inclusion of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) which will be made available to the Commonwealth by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Intended use of the ESG grant is described as follows:

Activity Description	Activity Type	Anticipated Funding Amount
ESG: FY 2011 Emergency Solutions Grant (Second Allocation	The proposed use of these funds will be for the Rapid Re-Housing component of the program. Funds will be available for short-term and medium-term financial assistance for individuals and families who are literally homeless and for administrative costs.	The second allocation, in the amount of $22,861, will be used for Rapid Re-Housing activities and administrative costs.
FY 2012 Allocation	The proposed use of these funds will be for the administration of the Homelessness Management Informations System (HMIS), administrative costs, and homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.	The total anticipated amount for the next cycle's funding will be in the amount of $68,179, of which 40% or more will be used for Rapid Re-Housing activities and the balance of the funds will be used for the following activities: HMIS administration, homelessness prevention activities, and administrative costs.

Future funding allocations will be announced through a public notice once the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation receives the allocation amounts from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Public hearings will also be held at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation on the island of Saipan on:

April 23, 2012, 6 p.m., NMHC Conference room, Saipan
April 24, 2012, 6 p.m., NMHC Main Office, Tinian
April 25, 2012, 6 p.m., NMHC Main Office, Rota

The general public, along with governmental agencies and non-profit organizations, are invited to comment on the substantial amendment during the public hearings.

The Amended Plan is also available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments must be received by NMHC on May 9, 2012, no later than 4:30 p.m., at our designated NMHC branches.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ12-GOV-052
Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, March 30, 2012 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All elements of the construction process shall meet standards of the EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**.

The SOQ shall be marked **"Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, RFQ12-GOV-052"**. For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**. Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 16, 2012** AND must be received no later than **April 25, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **Benigno R. Fitial**
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

'Fitial, NMI govt not interested in mediation in Jorgensen's suit'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI government are not interested in mediation in connection with the two unnamed retirees' lawsuit against them and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Gilbert Birnbrich, chief of the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division, filed the mediation statement in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday on behalf of Fitial, CNMI government, Department of Finance, and acting Finance secretary Robert Shrack.

The mediation statement was pursuant to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood's order at the conclusion of a telephonic conference call on March 29.

According to Birnbrich, the government does not believe that mediation is appropriate because it believes that the plaintiffs' claims have not merit.

Birnbrich said the government also believes that mediation would be duplicative of proceedings in the Fund's lawsuit against the government in the Superior Court.

With respect to the issue of the federal court's jurisdiction over the unnamed retirees' lawsuit, Birnbrich said the CNMI government has not been served with unnamed retirees' filing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

He said the lack of service to the government was raised during the March 29, 2012, telephonic conference.

Birnbrich said the plaintiffs' lawyer, Bruce Jorgensen, promised to serve the documents, but as of this time he has not done so.

Since the plaintiffs have failed to provide the government with the required documents, Birnbrich said the government is unable to form a position whether the federal court possesses jurisdiction over the case.

He said the government, however, has no independent objection to the federal court's exercise of jurisdiction.

Jorgensen, on behalf of two unnamed retirees, filed the lawsuit against Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Manglona appoints Guam judge to mediate Saito's suit vs UMDA

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge of the District of Guam Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. to serve as a mediator/settlement judge in the lawsuit filed by a former chief financial officer of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. against UMDA.

In an order issued last week, Manglona set the mediation settlement conference on April 25, 2012, at 10:30am at the U.S. District Court's chambers conference room.

Manglona ordered former UMDA chief financial officer Hiroyuki Saito and UMDA to appear at the conference with their lawyers.

The judge directed the lawyers to file within 10 days of the completion of the conference a stipulated status report informing the court of the outcome of the mediation.

Manglona issued the order after Saito and UMDA, through their counsels, agreed to hold a conference to settle their disputes.

Saito and UMDA, through their respective counsels Mark A. Scoggins and Robert T. Torres, had asked the court to appoint Manibusan to be the mediator/settlement judge.

Saito is suing UMDA to compel the company to arbitrate their disputes. He claimed that UMDA's total outstanding liability to him under the terms of the renewed contract is at least $975,000.

In February 2011, the federal court granted UMDA's motion to dismiss Saito's lawsuit but in May 2011, Saito filed an amended complaint. According to the amended complaint, UMDA terminated Saito's employment effective immediately and without cause on Dec. 7, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man who hit wife with meat cleaver gets 4 months

A man who beat up his wife and repeatedly hit her face with a meat cleaver during an argument has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a four-month prison term.

Mashud Rana, 24, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to assault and battery as part of a plea deal and was sentenced to a year in jail, all suspended except for four months, with credit for time served.

Rana will start serving his sentence on April 27, 2012.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also ordered Rana to pay a $500 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee, and to pay all the medical fees associated with the victim's injuries, as well as restitution.

After completing his sentence, Rana will be placed on two years of probation. He was required to undergo alcohol and drug counseling during the first year of probation.

Rana beat up the wife on Nov. 14, 2011, on Saipan, pulling her hair, slapping her, and repeatedly hitting her in the face with a meat cleaver. Except for swelling on the left side of her face, the victim did not suffer any cuts from the attack.

The victim told police that had responded to a report about a domestic violence in Garapan that she and Rana, had an argument over their dinner food that was too spicy.

During court proceedings, however, the wife wrote the court a letter, saying she wants to fix their marriage. The wife said she loves Rana and that the fight happened because of a misunderstanding and her being stubborn and ignorant. She said at the time, they started arguing about their financial and emotional problems.

The wife said that Rana is a good husband and a stepfather to her four daughters. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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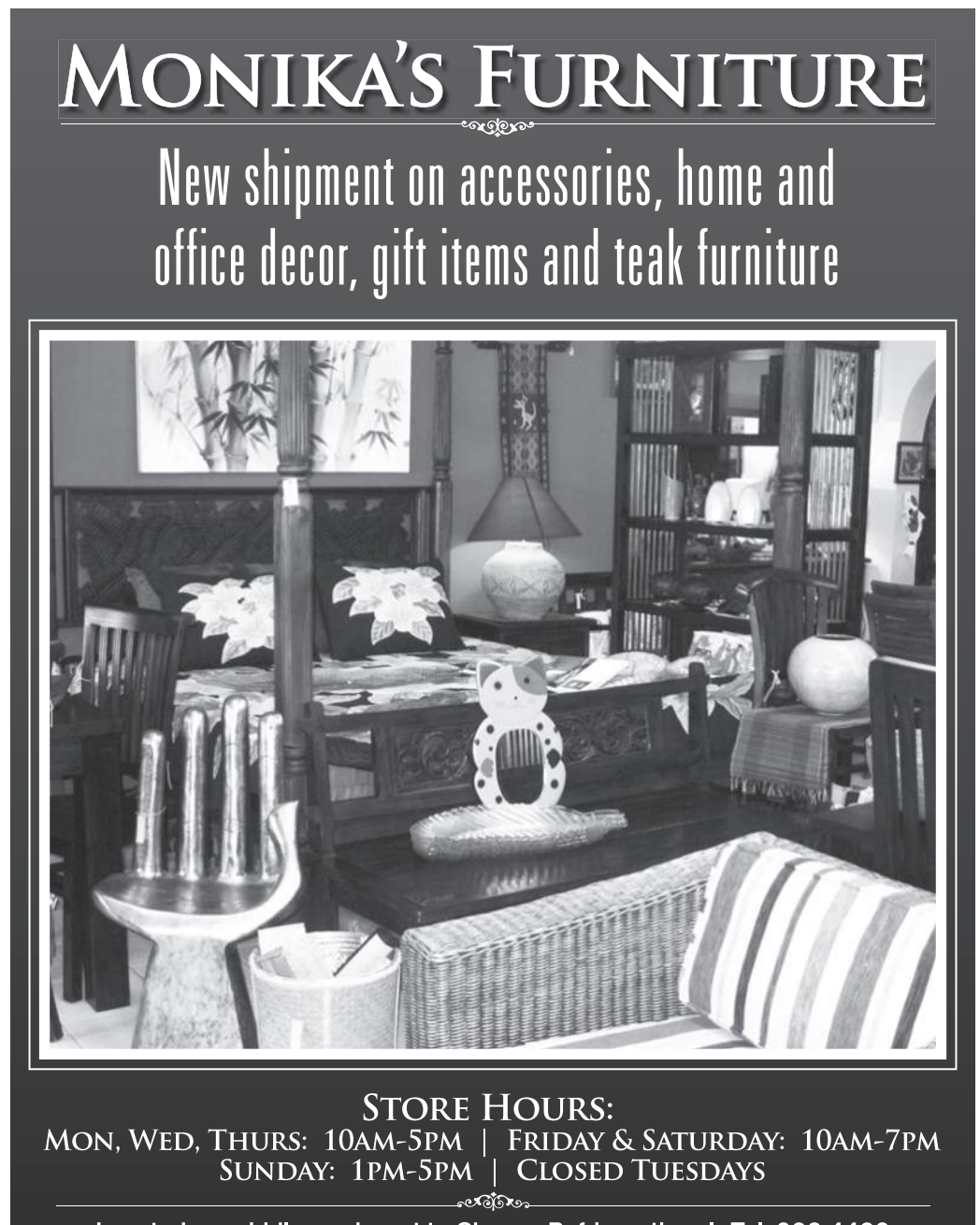
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CUC, Mobil employees undergo oil spill response equipment training

Employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. recently attended a training that enhances their capabilities to respond to oil spill disasters.

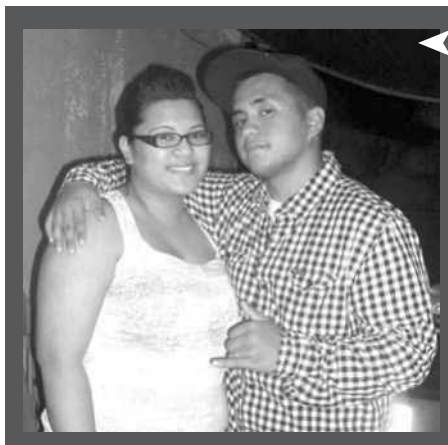
The training was conducted by Daniel Beyer, sales manager for the Larsen Marine Oil Recovery Corp., who facilitated the training of 20 technical and professional staff members of Mobil and CUC. Beyer provided both a classroom technical overview at the power plant and a field demonstration covering operations and maintenance of the oil spill response equipment.

"The staff is well versed in safety and operation of various equipment. Safety was the primary issue and that was demonstrated well," said Beyer, adding that the training demonstrates CUC's commitment to protecting the island's beautiful coastlines.

According to Beyer, being prepared for any possible circumstances and having the right equipment is a good start to a complete response package. He said future training will be added to enhance the capabilities of CUC to properly respond to emergencies. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mobil and CUC personnel work with emergency response equipment as a part of training provided by Lamor at the power plant in Lower Base.



HAPPY EASTER

A happy Easter to the *familian* Chungi *yan* Batitang on Saipan! We wish we were there to celebrate Easter with y'all and we hope you have a wonderful day. We love you all and enjoy your Easter Sunday. With love, Martinie and Craig Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

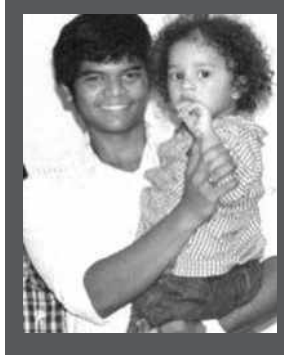
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy 5th birthday to Jesus Te Cruz Tyquiengco, who celebrated his birthday on April 8, 2012! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, brother and sisters, and Genecia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our princess, Taliyah, who celebrated her special day yesterday, April 8! You are growing quickly but will forever be our little princess. We love you and wish nothing but the best for you, always. May you enjoy your day and be showered with all the love that you deserve. May God bless you today, tomorrow, and forever. We love you to the moon and back. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Vinae, Naish, Jun Jun and your entire Bocago and Sablan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Victor Sablan! You are finally 18! Enjoy your day and be safe. May God bless you today, tomorrow, and always. We wish you nothing but the best and may your day be filled with fun. We love you always and may you have many more wonderful birthdays to come. Love always, your Kilili family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DEQ-045

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DEVELOPMENT OF A SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE MONITORING PLAN FOR SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 26, 2012** AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. FRANK RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 12, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 9, 2001

Feds seize hot cars from businessmen

The US government seized from its Chinese owners a pair of luxury and sport utility vehicles that federal agents believe were ill-obtained using funds derived from an illegal gambling operation. The owners of a 1999 Mitsubishi Montero and a 2000 Toyota 4Runner confiscated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February this year were indicted before the US District Court with charges in connection with an illegal gambling business. Hui Min Huang and Jun Wie Liu pleaded not guilty to the charges late last year. Both, including Lu Rong Tian, Triple J Motors, and others have been summoned by the federal court to submit claims or state reasons why the units should not be condemned or forfeited.

Feds' assistance sought for local water problems

Newly installed US Interior Secretary Gale Norton has been urged to help address water-related problems faced by the Commonwealth, in light of the absence of adequate potable water sources in the CNMI. "The present quality of the water being supplied to every single household on Saipan for human consumption is grossly below the level of the national standards," said former Covenant negotiator and lieutenant governor Pete A. Tenorio. In a letter to the new DOI secretary, Mr. Tenorio said not a single water source developed on Saipan is clean and safe enough for human consumption, adding that at least 90 percent of CNMI residents are forced to buy bottled water or collect rainwater through a roof-catchment facility.

Apr. 9, 2002

$80M worth of projects yet to be implemented

Out of the 260 identifiable CIP projects for the CNMI, the Commonwealth government has yet to implement some $80-million worth of infrastructure, ranging from buildings to roads that could have pumped in needed money into the ailing economy. This was due to several internal factors that the Department of Public Works is facing, according to Secretary Juan S. Reyes. "Out of the 260 identifiable projects, an estimated sum of $80 million has not been bidded out for various reasons," said Rep. William S. Torres, who was with Reyes yesterday at a beautification project in Gualo Rai.

PSS leaders urged: Stay away from politics

The State Board of Education has penned a resolution discouraging the active involvement of Public School System leaders in political campaigns and activities while under the public institution's employ. The resolution, which was adopted by the BOE last week, prohibits PSS leaders from seeking an elective office, as it "detracts from the important educational work at hand, confuses the public and implies that students' educational welfare is not first and foremost to such PSS leadership." PSS leaders targeted by the resolution include members of the 8th CNMI BOE, the Commissioner of Education, PSS associate commissioners and public school principals.

Apr. 9, 2003

Senator will seek deferment of FEBC's lease renewal request

With both houses of Legislature readying for its first joint session that will tackle three public land leases this Friday, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero disclosed plans yesterday to recommend for the deferment of action on the lease extension request by the Far East Broadcasting Company. Also calendared for Friday's joint session are the lease extension requests of Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. and the Micronesian Development Company Inc. on Tinian. Guerrero, chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, said he received information on FEBC that merit further probe before its lease renewal request can be brought before the full Legislature for action.

Rota firm sued over unpaid debt

A local company has sued a business establishment on Rota for unpaid debt amounting to almost $15,000. New Shintani Corp. filed the lawsuit before the Superior Court against David R. Quitugua, who does business as Unity Q. Enterprises. New Shintani lawyer Michael White claimed that the Rota company has failed to pay his client the principal amount of $14,575.75, besides interest accruing since September 20, 1995. A document attached by White in the complaint showed that the indebtedness stemmed from various transactions between the Rota firm and his client involving the purchase of construction materials and rental of equipment made as early as April 7, 1994.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 83

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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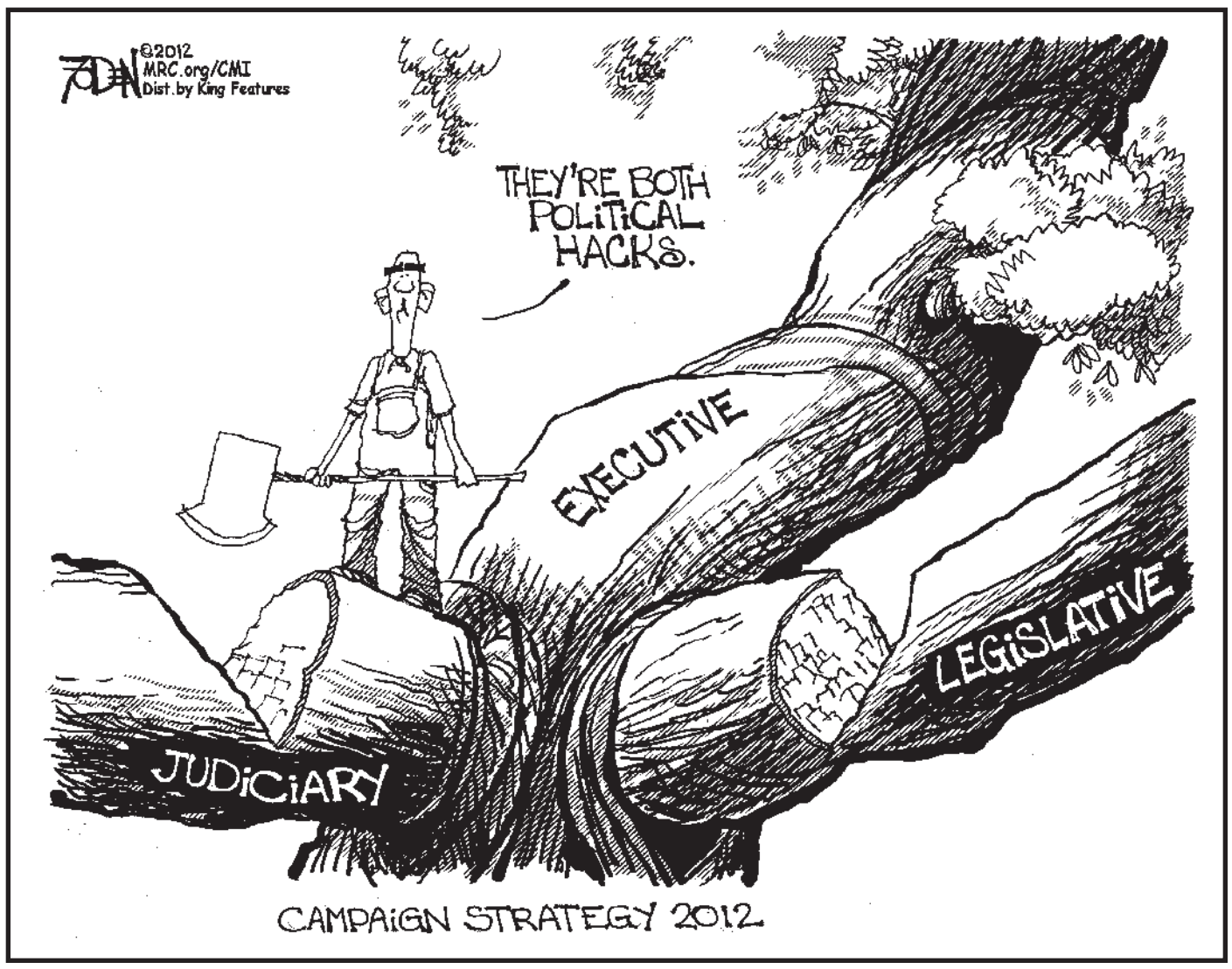
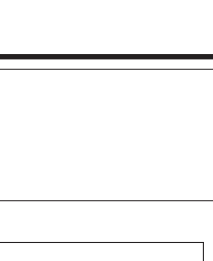


The resurrected human

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Friday got us past the trek of contrition up the Mt. Tapochaos of our imaginings. Filipinos in the manner of Iberian penitents and flagellants perform various acts of self-scourging, including the actual nailing into a cross, now an annual observance in the Province of Pampanga, with not a few tourists and media folks in avid attendance.

Sabalu Gloria in Chalan Kanoa is a time of quiet waiting, the not too strenuous dusting of the cobwebs of our lives, just a few segue spaces to the *Qingming* (dusting of the gravestones of ancestors) currently being observed in China. The assumption is that the liturgical journey of this week has been an intense one of meditation, contemplation, and prayer. Where the culture of death in Iberian Christendom preeminently prevailed and the aura of despair shrouded our forebodings, the sunrise of Easter's empty tomb come barreling into human consciousness as the immeasurable surprise of the mysterious and the awesome.

Easter is more than prettily arranged tulips and daffodils, roses and irises on a white lace-covered mantle. Nor has it much to do with overproductive bunnies leaving eggs in every bush. "Incarnation" and "resurrection" as abstracted paradigm image-handles provide bookends of the human journey in the Christian dispensation.

Incarnation affirms unconditionally the meaningfulness of existence even in lowly birth. Resurrection celebrates the freedom to live again, given what naturally seems to be a demonstrated propensity to want to escape one's situation into all forms of deadly illusions; the empty tomb gives significance to the willful completion of finite existence when we rise from the living dead even when the terminus is in the ignominy of a crucifixion! Many of us have gotten into the rot of the walking dead that to have the pinch of life reawaken our consciousness comes as a shocking but liberating event.

However, "Resurrection man" in popular usage has referred to sadistic violence in Ireland in a novel and a movie, a DC comic book superhero, and the widespread practice of body snatching, particularly when cadavers were in demand with the ascension in science of anatomy as a discipline in the universities.

We refer to *resurrection* in this reflection as a fact of nature and an element of human choice. It should not be confused with reincarnation, the return of one's essence into a younger body; bodily resurrection is a reality in this side of the grave before the worms take over six feet below the ground. It is the metamorphosis of the butterfly out of the cocoon. In the medieval ages, bodily resurrection, touted by wishful thinking of a Nile-originating heavenly other Other World, a pre-Copernican symbol that has outlived its usefulness, is not dissimilar to the *tian* (sky) and *di* (under the earth) fortune telling parts of ancient Chinese cosmology.

Dreaming of "heaven" elsewhere, however, remains an item among "fundamentalist" circles in the popular piety of the Judeo-Christian-Muslim communions. That is not what we mean in this reflection. We mean "resurrection" as the hardheaded insistence that Zion of the promised land is actual geography. We do not agree with much of Jewish aggression in Palestine, but we do recognize the right of a people of live out their chosenness in geography.

The Christians had their *Ecclesia,* the household of the Way Life Is, but then turned their chapels and cathedrals, steeples at the corner of Elm and Main streets, as escapist havens away from the din of

See HUMAN on Next Page

Cry, my beloved country!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

Daily we are increasingly besieged by internal and external problems. Our people are hurting. Many have left the islands and others are planning to leave. Daily the food lines get longer. Many of us are desperate but have nowhere to turn to for help or guidance. We have illnesses and cannot cure them. A cancer is slowly gripping us, and all our leaders do is talk and talk. Why have they abandoned us? Where is their will and courage to solve our problem?

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

Our beautiful islands in which so many of us were born and which has given us pride in being islanders is being abused and assaulted by the very people in whom we gave our trust and elected them to act as our representatives. Do they not feel our pain, fear, anxiety, and depression?

Businesses are folding their doors. Our children are leaving their homes because their future has been crushed. Tourists are abandoning us because we have lost the lure of attraction. What future lies in store for us? Are we so helpless that we cannot help ourselves?

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

I refuse to believe that we cannot resurrect ourselves. Is it that our leaders have lost the strong will and determination to act courageously? Please don't betray the trust we gave you. Betrayal of trust is one of the worst crimes against another human being. Our country's strength and greatness comes from two sources: one is from its educated and concerned citizens that work hard for their country and the other is from its leaders that practice qualities to lead the country.

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

Leadership may be defined as a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs an organization. Leaders motivate people to perform or accomplish acts. Let us examine these qualities of leadership. As we read them, remember the following words: **I—Integrity, C—Compassion, A—Accountability, R—Risk-taking, E—Excellence.** Putting the first letter of each word together they spell **I CARE!**

Integrity means doing the right thing for the right reason and in the right way. A leader with integrity attracts followers. A sense of responsibility and honesty dominates his decisions.

Compassion is practiced by the leader when he is attuned to the personal, emotional, and spiritual needs of our citizens and each other. Compassion is one of the noblest qualities a leader possesses.

Accountability is to take full responsibility for personal decisions and actions. A leader is the steward of the community's resources that have been entrusted to his care.

Risk-taking leaders have the courage to act in situations where results aren't assured. They analyze the situation, listing the pros and cons. Then they determine the possibility of what each outcome may occur.

Excellence allows for no acceptance of poor performance. The true leader is committed to giving only his best. He keeps trying to reach perfection and harmony in the community.

The attributes mentioned above are only a few that great leaders possess. True and concerned leaders spend a lifetime perfecting the qualities of leadership. How many of our current leaders practice them?

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

Lawrence W. Reed in his essay on statesmanship explains the qualities that define a statesman in the following: "The statesman takes time from a life of accomplishment to serve the general welfare. He stands for a principled vision, not for what he thinks citizens will fall for. He is well informed about the vicissitudes of human nature, the lessons of history, the role of ideas, and the economics of the marketplace. He is a truth-seeker, which means he is more likely to do what is right than what may be politically popular at the moment….He elevates public discussion because he knows what he is talking about. He does not engage in class warfare or in divisive or partisan tactics that pull people apart. He does not cynically buy votes with the money his taxes take from others. He may even judge his success in office as much by how many laws he repealed as by how many he passes."

Until all of our leaders strive to become statesmen and stateswomen, our beloved CNMI will continue to falter. They must rise to the challenges as never before and show us by their leadership and courage that our community can revitalize itself. If not we will continue to be at best a mediocre society wholly dependent upon the United States as a child to a parent.

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

See CRY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

The Fund, retirees, senators, Sixto, and voters

Senate President Paul Manglona was truly prophetic about the Fund as the collapse will surely be a death blow to our economy. The governor has also recognized that the Fund cannot be allowed to fail. Even though there has been a rift between the governor and the Senate president, they are willing to work together to save the Fund. So if these two leaders can put politics aside for this important issue then it should be easy for the rest of us, as politics will *not* save the Fund. If anything, politics will speed up the death of the Fund. It was politics that got the Fund in trouble in the first place and it has been politics ever since, which is why we retirees still don't have a solution.

What has amazed me is that there hasn't been a conscious effort by all retirees to have a direct say in the solution, even after the judge advised the Fund to ask the retirees because after all it is our money that is owed to us! I admire the Retirement Association and our president, Mr. Camacho, for at least he is trying to influence the Fund board. But the retirees need and deserve much more input, especially with their livelihoods and future at stake. It seems everyone but retirees are deciding about the retirees' money, which is one of the main reasons I got involved as a retiree and the other reason being that I know how to fix the problem. The Fund can be saved as the bulk of the solution has really been offered by the court. The only question is when will the board start doing the work of synthesizing a plan, which is what I'm concerned about most! The Board is truly challenged and I understand their hesitation to pull the trigger, which makes it clear that the leadership of Sixto Igisomar is missed. The board has even made public references to waiting for Sixto's confirmation to move on the consultant position to release their full intentions and plans.

The politics of Mr. Hofschneider and his political baggage may have also caused the Senators to delay Sixto's confirmation. We got a break when Mr. Hofschneider pulled out because we really didn't need another politician in the middle of this, no disrespect intended. But it is good to know that the board does realize they will need a person to lead and establish a board presence in all the activities to fix the problem. The board only makes policies and there must be someone on the ground to take the bull by the horns and do the work. It is also complicated and too late in the game to be making laws to create a task force, especially when most of the solution has already been offered by the court. A task force will be just more politics with arguing about who is on the task force, conflicting views on what and how to do it—they will be over before they can even start! It is time to execute a plan and this is literally a one-person special operation working with the existing stakeholders to synthesize a plan for retirees!

I can only pray retirees aren't being set up for another double-cross. I have done my homework and concluded that there are actually three potential outcomes for the Fund, even though nothing has been said about the third horrible alternative of bankruptcy. But the board must offer a solution to the court or be in contempt. In either case (receivership or filing for bankruptcy), the board will have failed the retirees who will lose big time again! If the board doesn't do its homework to create a plan for presentation to the court, the board will have failed in their fiduciary duties and screwed retirees who won't be able say anything or do anything about their benefits! If the Fund fails, the CNMI will also lose a big portion of the consumer spending power that will surely have a domino effect on the economy—we have no choice but to save the Fund.

The judge has given us a road map and we only need to follow it and do the work. Senators need to know that the board needs Sixto bad and they needed him a month ago! I can appreciate the Senate's caution and I understand the senators' technical concerns that have been raised about his confirmation but please consider these facts: Sixto will only be making policy and the Department of Commerce does not have anything to do with the Retirement Fund other than paying their employees' share to the Fund. Furthermore, it was made clear publicly that the board will figuratively be a body functioning without a head until Sixto returns because he had set the agenda and the strategies for fixing the Fund. It is obvious the board does not want to deviate and we can't blame them—no one wants to be blamed if the Fund fails. We need to be thanking Sixto for his willingness to serve and put his reputation on the line with this highly charged and extremely important issue. If someone wants to contest Sixto's appointment let them go ahead and it can be handled after the Fund has been set on a course to be saved six months from now. The board, retirees and their families, the governor, and the rest of the community are waiting on you senators and the clock is ticking!

The constitutional amendment proposed by the governor is clearly the best option of using Article 11 for solving the problem with the least and even no effect on the retirees' benefits. But getting the amendment to pass is the real challenge, which is why I made recommendations in the board meeting to recall the law and place a "fixed property tax" that will be governed by a "cost of living index" to give the law a better chance of being passed. These changes will add more accountability to the people as a perpetual income source with virtual ownership. This will solve the present funding problem and guarantee that the indigenous people will always receive a fair income from these properties. In fact all government property sold for commercial use should come with a fixed property tax. We must face it, death and taxes can't be avoided no matter how much we try. But think about it, when poor people need money they have to find work or find something to sell or pawn and that is exactly the predicament we are in. The government must face up to its debt to the retirees and pay it or everyone is going to suffer even more. So I hope voters will be ready and willing to do their part to fix the Fund by approving the amendment once it has been fixed, if it gets fixed.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Government accountability

Has the position of power in government boards gone to the head of the members that they think they are above the law? My firm has suffered financial and economic damages due to unfair and illegal competition for electrical engineering services in the CNMI by an unlicensed engineer. CNMI Public Law requires a professional engineer license to solicit and perform engineering work. My firm is the only legal electrical engineering company remaining active in the CNMI. The other legal electrical company closed its office last January. The other companies that have PE licenses do not have local offices in the CNMI but are "carpet baggers" from off island who are circumventing the law by not obtaining a business license and tax payments to the CNMI.

I have filed complaints and properly provided evidences to the government board but they have failed to adjudicate my complaints. Instead they just gave the violators a letter of requirement like a minor slap on the wrist and offered ways for the violators to continue plying their illegal violations of the professional engineering public law. It appears that there is a separate agenda to protect and shield all the architects, engineers and contractors in the CNMI who have aided and abetted the violators. It is totally wrong for a board who has been entrusted by the people of the CNMI to compromise their life, health and property by continuing to allow the violator of the law to ply their illegal trade. I have provided the board with information and training material to help them better understand the law but to no avail since the greedy economic benefit to a few is more important than the life, health and property of the people of the CNMI. There have already been too many building fires on Saipan. How many were caused by electrical deficiencies?

How can a U.S. commonwealth tolerate this? Even the Philippines, which has a poor record of government accountability, is changing for the better by working on the impeachment of a chief justice who allegedly has not been exercising his fiduciary responsibilities.

History will judge the members of the board.

Jose S. Servino, PE, CEM, QCP
San Jose Village, Saipan

HUMAN

From Page 10

common labor and celebrative fest. Deterioration of the Prophet's Mecca and New Jerusalem into the domain of *jihad,* and the promise of belly dancing 72 virgins awaiting a suicide bomber in the afterlife adds to the pretensions of the la-la-land nature of paradise.

We take resurrection in the same way that we speak of being born-again! In this life, in the here and now, it happens. No need to textually refer to scriptural passages. Just dive into the depth of one's life and the truth stares one in the face.

As one *Ecclesia* divine once opined (don't remember who or how the insight was worded), *"The Christ Word or Happening does not depend on any historical tradition; it is a process that is part of life itself. There is no content, behavioral or historical or sociological or psychological or religious or economic, that is required for the happening to occur. It just happens, and when it does, everything is transformed."*

I no longer trade in the literary commerce of the "Christ Word" but I am no stranger to the paradigm shifting that occurs in life. It is my conscious task to point to that surprising happening that we have tried to run away from, and affirm the enigmatic consciousness that follows which renders all fidelity to all kinds of heretofore human construction kits of security and certainty (fame, status, achievements, honors, etcetera) non-operational. The empty tomb comes as a promise to freely recreate anew.

We print this on *Good Monday morning* of our lives, if only to defy chronology and declare that the happening of transformation is a daily occurrence and option in our lives.

When the sun rose on Sunday morn, we trust you were sitting ducks in the tornado and tsunami of transformation, and be a resurrected human in the flower vase of Easter!

CRY

From Page 10

Anything of worth in the Legislature and Administration has to be done as a unified group. This is where statesmanship enters. You, our leaders, must persuade your peers to see things through your eyes, through discussions and through compromises.

Politics is not a job. It is a duty. You asked to enter into it for the service of your fellow citizens. If you truly believe in your duty, than live it! Do we ask any less of our soldiers who defend our country and rights with their lives?

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

You, our leaders, should be the catalyst and hope for leading us back to prosperity and dignity. Please cut out the following pledge and glue it squarely in the middle of your desk and read it daily:

"**I have been elected and given the trust to represent my people of the CNMI. My duty is to help the people. I pledge to place this duty above all else. I shall seek only what is good for the general public. I will never sacrifice my duty for personal gain—so help me God!"**

Gentlemen, when you leave office, what do you wish to be remembered for? What legacy will you leave our people? What are your dreams for the CNMI? A wise man once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others, lives on forever."

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

The thoughts expressed above are written in behalf of the silent majority who plead with you to lead us. Hopefully these words will spur you to heed our pleas and act forcefully and in a positive manner. Fear, anxiety and depression have gripped us. Recall: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

Hopefully through your leadership, we can envision a better future through our trust and faith in you. Do not forsake us. Your motto must be: "I have been chosen to lead! Duty to my country comes first!"

May God grant you the courage to do the right thing. May He also grant you the wisdom to know what you can do and cannot do. May He grant you the courage to lead us bravely.

A word to all of us, my fellow citizens, we too must help them to lead us correctly by letting them know what we wish. We must become an active participant in shaping our community along with our leaders. Let our voices be heard. Our country can weather our problems if we are willing to make the sacrifices. Are we? If we do not actively participant, we desire what we are having now.

Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

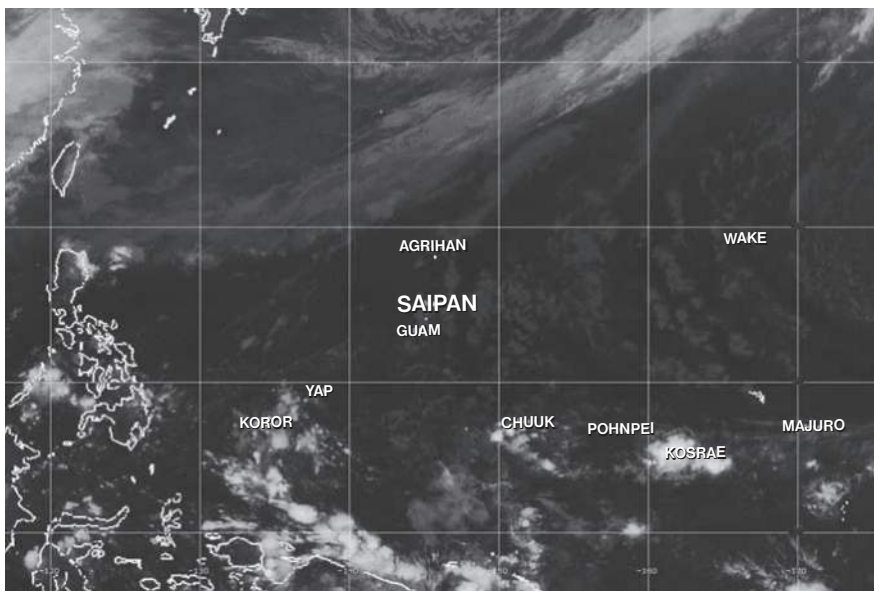
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲91	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼60
Beijing	Showers	▲77	▼45
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲75	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼69
London	Showers	▲52	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼52
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
New York	Windy	▲64	▼45
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼48
Pusan	Showers	▲62	▼52
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼44
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲63	▼45
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼46
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N147E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found over Iwo To island along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough undulates eastward from 3N130E through weak circulations centered southeast of Koror at 3N137E and south of Chuuk at 3N148E to end near EQ171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the circulation southeast of Koror are found over Koror but just southwest of Yap or south of a line from 7N133E to 10N137E to 6N141E. Convergent winds in the vicinity of the eastern end of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae within 60 miles of a line from 6N161E to 6N166E and also west of Tarawa or south of a line from 3N169E to 3N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
11:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:09 PM	7:50 AM
Tuesday	10:12 PM	8:49 AM
Wednesday	11:12 PM	9:49 AM
Thursday		10:49 AM
Friday	12:07 AM	11:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Spring: A time for flowers and high gasoline prices

By JONATHAN FAHEY
AP ENERGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Ahh, spring. The days get longer, flowers bloom, and gasoline gets more expensive.

It's a galling time for drivers, and it's more maddening than usual this year. The average price of gasoline could surpass $4 per gallon nationwide as early as this week. It's already $3.93 per gallon, a record for this time of year.

Why the seasonal spike? It's the time of year refineries reduce output to repair equipment and start making a cleaner, more expensive blend of gasoline for summer.

Since 2000, pump prices have risen every year between early February and late May. The annual increase has boosted prices by 27 percent on average, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores. This year, prices have risen 14 percent, or 48 cents per gallon, since Feb. 1.

"There's always built-in increase, and it's going to be accentuated this year," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

Gasoline was expensive even before the seasonal run-up. Strong global demand, heightened tensions with Iran and a smattering of supply disruptions have kept crude oil prices elevated for months. The oil used to make most of the gasoline in the U.S. has averaged $120 per barrel this year.

This year's spring surge is more extreme than usual because three refineries that serve the East Coast were shut down last fall and another one may be closed in July. That's threatening supplies in one of the country's most densely populated regions, and pushing prices higher everywhere.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US job market takes a break after hiring binge

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. job market took a breather in March after its best hiring stretch since the Great Recession. Employers added 120,000 jobs last month—half the December-February pace and well short of the 210,000 economists were expecting. The unemployment rate fell from 8.3 percent in February to 8.2 percent, the lowest since January 2009, but that was largely because many Americans stopped looking for work. Still, few economists expect hiring to fizzle in spring and summer, as it did the past two years. And they blamed seasonal factors for much of Friday's disappointing report from the Labor Department. The report was closely watched in political circles. If employers retreat on hiring, consumers could lose confidence in the economy and potentially dim President Barack Obama's re-election hopes.

Ford recalls 140,000 Focus cars for wiper problem

DETROIT (AP)—Ford is recalling more than 140,000 Focus compact cars because the passenger side windshield wiper can fail. Federal Safety regulators say a seal in the wiper motor wiring may be missing. Water can get inside and cause the wiper to stop working, increasing the risk of a crash. Ford Motor Co. says there haven't been any crashes or injuries from the problem. The cars were built from Aug. 1, 2010 through Oct. 18 of last year. Ford dealers will clean and seal the wiring free of charge and fix any wipers that don't work. Ford expects to begin the repairs in late May. Owners with questions can call Ford at (866) 436-7332.

US borrowing up but consumers resist credit cards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans took out more loans to buy cars and attend school in February but used their credit cards less frequently for the second straight month. The Federal Reserve said Friday that consumers increased borrowing by $8.7 billion, the sixth straight monthly increase. The jump in borrowing was driven by $11 billion increase in the category that mostly measures demand for auto and student loans. Borrowing on credit cards fell by $2 billion after a $3 billion decline in January. Total consumer borrowing rose to seasonally adjusted $2.52 trillion. That's nearly at pre-recession levels and up from a post-recession low point of $2.39 trillion reached in September 2010. Borrowing had tumbled for more than two years during and immediately after the recession.

US Army Corps of Engineers

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Naftan Bomb Storage (located on the east coast of the Naftan Peninsula near the southern tip of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***Naftan Bomb Storage. This site was used as a storage facility.***

The former ***Naftan Bomb Storage*** is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
PO Box 501092
Saipan, MP 96950

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former ***Naftan Bomb Storage***, please contact:

Helene Takemoto
Project Manager
USACE, Honolulu District
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E
Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Telephone: (808) 438-6931

US Army Corps of Engineers

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Naftan Ordnance Disposal (located on the Naftan Peninsula near the southern tip of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***Naftan Ordnance Disposal. This site was used for offshore debris disposal.***

The former ***Naftan Ordnance Disposal*** is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

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Helene Takemoto
Project Manager
USACE, Honolulu District
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E
Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Telephone: (808) 438-6931

Nation

Navy jet crash a 'Good Friday miracle'—but how?

By ZINIE CHEN SAMPSON and MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—A 12-ton Navy jet loaded with tons of fuel crashes in a spectacular fireball into a big apartment complex, scattering plane parts and wiping out some 40 units. How is it that everyone survived?

The mayor of Virginia Beach could only call it a "Good Friday miracle" and pilots marveled at how a failed training flight that engulfed buildings in flames managed to crash without killing anyone. The student pilot, his instructor and five on the ground were hurt, but all were out of the hospital by Saturday.

Investigators, witnesses and experts said multiple factors were at play:

■ Most of the F/A-18D jet's fuel was dumped before the crash, causing less of an explosion.

■ The Navy credited neighbors and citizens with pulling pilots away from the flames after they safely ejected.

■ The plane crashed into the apartment complex's empty courtyard, and two days before Easter in the middle of the day, most residents weren't home.

"At the end of the day," said Daniel O. Rose, a former Navy jet pilot, "I think it was a lot of fortuity. You look at this as a one-off and you still got to scratch your head."

Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms took to Twitter on Saturday to celebrate the fact no lives were lost, calling it a "Good Friday miracle." Adm. John C. Harvey, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, said he was "quite surprised, to be honest", that no one had died, calling it an "amazing miracle."

Gov. Bob McDonnell told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper that the lack of loss of human life was "an act of divine providence."

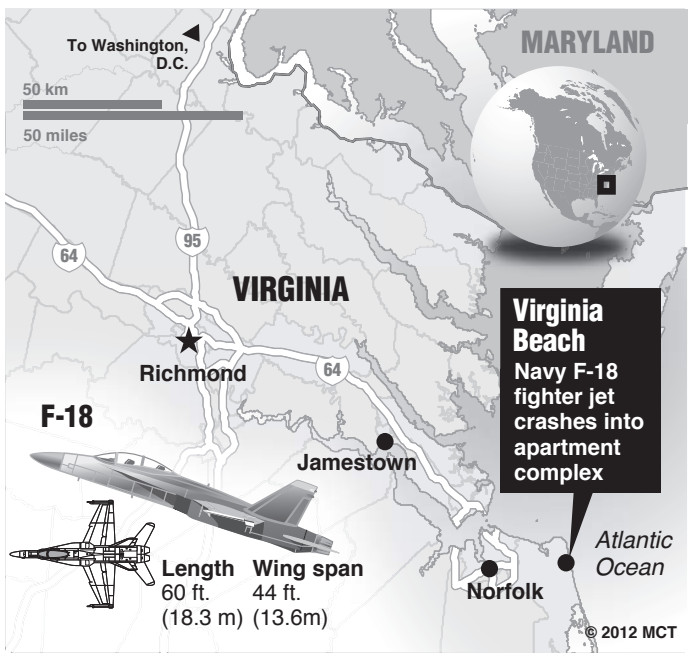
The F/A-18D Hornet suffered some sort of massive mechanical problem while soaring above Virginia Beach on Friday, sending it plunging into the Mayfair Mews apartment complex and taking out dozens of units. All residents had been accounted for early Saturday after careful apartment checks, fire department Capt. Tim Riley said.

Investigators will work from the outside of the site toward the center to gather parts from the jet and examine them, as well as check out the flight data recorders, which had not yet been recovered, Harvey said. The investigation could take weeks, he said.

Wearing protective white suits and yellow boots, investigators walked through the site Saturday, where blackened facades and partially demolished brick walls jutted out from the debris.

AP

The scene of a jet crash is covered in foam on Friday, April 6, 2012, in Virginia Beach, Va.



The airmen were from Naval Air Station Oceana, less than 10 miles away. They were able to safely escape the aircraft, which weighs up to 50,000 pounds fully fueled and armed, before it careened into the apartment complex, demolishing sections of some buildings and engulfing others in flames.

Jeff Swoope, who spent the night in a hotel with about two dozen other residents now without homes, had just pulled out of his parking space to run errands when he noticed the low-flying jet heading right at his building.

"I thought I'd better get out of there quick," he said. "It could have hit a gas line, there could have been a bigger explosion."

The aviators on board the F/A-18 Hornet had careful training—even the student would have had 1 1/2 years of intensive training before taking flight with his instructor on Friday, said J.F. Joseph, a former airline pilot, retired Marine colonel and decorated Navy pilot who flew with the daredevil Blue Angels.

They likely did everything they could to mitigate damage on the ground; one pilot apparently waited until the last second to eject because he was found still strapped to his seat, Joseph said. But maneuvering would have been extremely difficult.

The jet likely was carrying thousands of pounds of fuel on board, which authorities said apparently had been dumped before impact. Fuel was found on cars and homes in the area, though it wasn't clear if that was an intentional move by the pilots or the result of mechanical problems like a ruptured fuel line. The fuel ignites and burns very quickly and could have sparked an even more massive fireball had it not been dumped.

Once emergency officials learned of the crash, they already had practiced for what to do next. The military and city cooperate closely to prepare for disasters, including through simulated crashes, said Virginia Beach spokesman Marc Davis.

The Navy also maps out areas where crashes could occur, to make sure residential growth is limited there; the Mayfair Mews complex was in an area where future growth is limited. City and state officials also have spent millions in recent years to buy land where military planes would be most likely to crash.

Rose, the former pilot who is now an aviation attorney, said the fact no one was killed on the ground was "about as close as you can get to a miracle." He called a military crash like this one extremely rare—a fighter jet crash in 2008 after a training exercise in a San Diego neighborhood killed four family members—but said a confluence of circumstances were behind it.

Local officials were reluctant to express relief, after dozens of people lost their homes.

While many people weren't home in the destroyed apartments, others nearby were going about their day and could only wonder how they avoided such a close call. The plane somehow missed them, in one case by no more than the length of a football field.

Fourteen-year-old Taylor Saladyga was relaxing at home by herself, enjoying spring break, when she heard a blast. The girl lives only about 100 yards from the apartment complex. Her aunt had been driving home at the time and called Saladyga to look up at the billowing smoke.

"I was terrified," Saladyga said. "I thought it was terrorists at first."

ACROSS THE NATION

Report: 1 dead, 3 wounded in Texas beach shooting

SURFSIDE BEACH, Texas (AP)—Authorities say one person has been killed and three others wounded in a shooting during a packed beach party on the Texas Gulf Coast. Brazoria County Sheriff Charles Wagner told The Facts newspaper that he had no immediate identification of those involved in the shooting at Surfside Beach and no immediate arrests had been made. Wagner says the circumstances were unclear. The Facts said word of mouth about an unauthorized beach party spread on social media, drawing thousands to Surfside Beach, about 40 miles south of Galveston. Surfside Beach officials told The Facts that the party was not permitted nor authorized. The Facts quoted a witness as saying the party began peacefully, but fights broke out and there was heavy drinking and also drug use.

Neighbors fearful after shootings in Tulsa

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Residents of Tulsa's predominantly black north side said Saturday they're afraid a shooter is still roaming their neighborhoods looking for victims after five people were shot—and three killed—a day earlier. Police are still waiting for the results of forensic tests, but investigators think the shootings are linked because they happened around the same time within a 3-mile span, and all five victims were out walking when they were shot. All the victims are black, and community met this weekend in an effort to calm any unrest. One of the victims told police that the shooter was a white man driving a white pickup truck who stopped to ask for directions before opening fire. Officer Jason Willingham said Saturday that the pickup was spotted in the area of three of the shootings.

7 injured in military helicopter mishap in Arizona

EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP)—A British Chinook helicopter suffered a "mishap" Saturday during a landing exercise in the Arizona desert, leaving seven people with minor injuries, a military spokeswoman said. The crew was practicing how to land the aircraft 15 miles northeast of Yuma when "something went wrong," said Michelle Dee, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Facility El Centro in California. The people aboard the Chinook had non-life-threatening injuries and were sent to the hospital for evaluations as a precaution. Dee said she didn't know how many people were aboard the aircraft or their nationalities. The helicopter sustained damage but Dee said she didn't know the extent.

Pa. cops: Boy shot by gun from under mom's pillow

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Authorities say a 4-year-old boy has shot himself in the chest in Philadelphia with a gun he found under his mother's pillow. The shooting happened at around 7 p.m. Saturday in the Mayfair section of northeast Philadelphia. Police say the boy shot himself once in the left side of the chest with a handgun. Officer Chris Bennett tells The Philadelphia Inquirer that the shooting appears to be accidental. Police tell the newspaper that the boy is in critical condition and undergoing emergency surgery at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Gay Mormon students at BYU come out in Web video

Students from a strict Mormon college that prohibits "homosexual behavior" have launched a Web video aimed at reassuring other gay and lesbian youth struggling with their faith and sexual orientation. The video recently posted to YouTube by 22 Brigham Young University students is the first of its kind with ties to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which forbids gay sex and marriage. The campaign is part of columnist Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" project, which seeks to give voices and hope to bullied gay and lesbian teenagers. In the video, several BYU students confess that they considered suicide because they didn't think they could be Mormon and gay.

Calif teen breaks up with teacher after his arrest

MODESTO, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California teen who made national news when she and her high school teacher moved in together says she has broken off the relationship following allegations that he sexually abused another student. Jordan Powers, 18, told ABC News that when her now former boyfriend, Christopher Hooker, called her from jail she told him, "We're done." Hooker, 41, was arrested Friday on suspicion of sexually abusing a different student more than a decade ago. After being booked on one count of oral copulation with a minor, he made a brief court appearance during which a judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf. Powers and Hooker moved in together in February, with Powers dropping out of James Enochs High School in Modesto and Hooker quitting his teaching job there and leaving his wife and three children.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani troops dig for 135 missing in avalanche

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani soldiers are digging for a second day to find 135 people buried by a massive avalanche that engulfed a military complex near the Indian border. Military officials said Sunday they have not recovered any bodies over 24 hours after the avalanche occurred. They are sending more heavy equipment to help with the effort. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The disaster occurred at the entrance to the Siachen Glacier, a mountain battleground where Pakistani and Indian troops have faced off for decades. The army has said at least 124 soldiers and 11 civilian contractors were missing under some 21 meters (70 feet) of snow.

China troubled by Pyongyang rocket launch plans

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister said Sunday that Beijing is troubled by North Korea's plans to launch a rocket and has urged more diplomacy to handle the situation, a measured response to a provocation that has unsettled the region. Yang Jiechi said he discussed North Korea's launch plans during trilateral talks with his counterparts from Seoul and Tokyo in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo. Japan's defense minister has ordered missile units to intercept the North Korean rocket if it or its fragments threaten to hit Japan. Seoul has also warned it might shoot down any parts of the North Korean rocket heading for South Korean territory. "We considered and exchanged views about the situation on the Korean peninsula, including the announcement by the DPRK that they plan to launch a satellite," Yang told reporters at a press briefing, referring to the North by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Afghanistan, US agree on night raids deal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government says it has reached a deal with the U.S. to govern controversial night raids by American forces. The Afghan Foreign Ministry says the memorandum of understanding on special operations will be signed later Sunday by Defense Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak and the commander of U.S. forces, Gen. John Allen. U.S. officials declined to comment on the deal before it was signed. Night raids have been a constant source of tension between the Afghan government and U.S. military. The agreement is a key step toward a long-term partnership to govern U.S. forces in Afghanistan after the majority of combat forces leave in 2014.

Myanmar's Karen rebels meet with Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Leaders of Myanmar's most enduring ethnic rebel group have met with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi a day after meeting with the president. The 2 1/2-hour meeting Sunday of leaders of the Karen National Union with Suu Kyi also follows an agreement the group reached Friday with the government to firm up a cease-fire they had agreed to in January. The meetings with President Thein Sein and Suu Kyi were virtually unprecedented for the KNU, which has mostly been engaged in an armed struggle for greater autonomy from Myanmar's government since the country obtained independence from Britain in 1948. Thein Sein is seeking cease-fires with ethnic rebel groups as part of the political reforms started last year after decades of repression under military rule.

Suspected militants kidnap Philippine businessman

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say suspected al-Qaida-linked militants abducted a businessman in the southern Philippines in the latest kidnapping by the group. Police Chief Inspector Randell Bueno says seven gunmen seized 62-year-old gas station owner Carlos Ty from his residence late Saturday in Jolo township on Jolo island, where the militant Abu Sayyaf group operates. He says the gunmen escaped on a vehicle similar to one used by the Abu Sayyaf in previous kidnappings. Police are in pursuit of the gunmen in a mountainous area in nearby Indanan township.

Romanian man found dead at Philippine waterfall

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Romanian university student has been found dead three days after he went missing while swimming at a popular waterfall in the northern Philippines. Regional civil defense chief Olive Luces said the body of George Sfintes was found floating Saturday in the pool of the Tappiya Falls in Ifugao province's Banaue township. The area is popular with tourists who hike on mountain trails with a view of famous rice terraces. Provincial police chief Laurence Mombael says the 22-year-old Sfintes was with 10 other Western and Japanese visitors. He studied at a Japanese university. He says Sfintes could have strayed too close to the base of the falls and may have drowned after he was sucked into the churning water.

US Army Corps of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former North Field (located in the Marpi area on the northern portion of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***North Field. This site was used as an ordnance storage facility for Marpi Point Field.***

The former ***North Field*** is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
PO Box 501092
Saipan, MP 96950

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former ***North Field***, please contact:

Helene Takemoto
Project Manager
USACE, Honolulu District
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E
Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Telephone: (808) 438-6931

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Request for information about the former Ordnance Plan (located on the northern portion of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***Ordnance Plan. This site was used as an ordnance storage facility for Marpi Point Field.***

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Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Telephone: (808) 438-6931

World

2OTH ANNIVERSARY OF BOSNIAN WAR

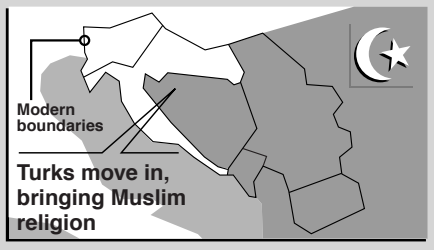
Sowing the seeds of hate

The Bosnian War, one of the most brutal of the conflicts that broke up Communist Yugoslavia, began in April 1992.

Centuries of domination

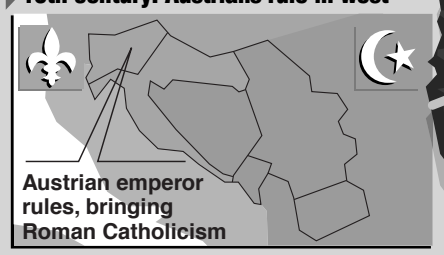
Although Serbs, Croats and Slovenes share the same ethnic roots, centuries of foreign domination led them to see themselves as distinct peoples

14th century: Turks rule in east



In 1389, Ottoman Turks took Serbia at the Battle of Kosovo; by the late 15th century, they controlled Bosnia-Herzegovina as well; during 400 years of Turkish rule, some Serbs, Croats converted to Islam, eventually creating a split between Muslims and Orthodox Christians

16th century: Austrians rule in west



In 1526, Croatia and Slovenia came under the Catholic Austrian king's control; many Croats and Slovenes converted to Catholicism, creating another distinction among Slavs; tensions between Serbs and Croats in Croatia began when Austrians relocated thousands of Serbs to the Croat-Bosnian border in the 19th century

19th century: Rise of nationalism

At the 1878 Congress of Berlin, after Russia's defeat of the Turks, the Serbs got their independence; but other deals made at the Congress angered them. Kosovo and Macedonia, regions the Serbs considered theirs, remained with the Turks; Bosnia-Herzegovina went to the Austro-Hungarians

The region at the time of the war

SLOVENIA

In 1990, the Communist Party was voted out of power, marking the beginning of Yugoslavia's break-up; Slovenia struggled against Serbia for independence in 1991, winning easily

CROATIA

Croats and Serbs went to war in July 1991 over Croatia's bid for independence; U.N. brokered a cease-fire in 1992

Krajina In 1991, Serbian separatists in the region declared it the Republic of Serbian Krajina and fought the Croats; they were reintegrated into Croatia in 1998

YUGOSLAVIA

In 1992, Serbia and Montenegro declared themselves successors to the old Yugoslavia and under President Slobodan Milosevic fought to unite the region's Serbs into "Greater Serbia"; became independent nations in 2006

MACEDONIA

The nation gained independence peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991, but argued with Greece over its name, which has been formally recognized by the U.S., 133 others since 2004

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The three-year war that left more than 100,000 dead erupted among Croats, Serbs and Muslims in Bosnia after the republic declared independence in 1992; NATO intervened in 1995 after more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were massacred at Srebrenica by the Bosnian Serb Army; the Dayton Agreement brought the conflict to an end in December 1995

Saravejo and eastern Bosnia Fighting was fiercest here where Serbs applied their policy of "ethnic cleansing," trying to drive all Muslims out

KOSOVO

Then an autonomous Serbian region comprised mainly of ethnic Albanians, Kosovo's campaign for independence in the 1990s led to a NATO operation against Serbia in 1999 and a U.N. peace-keeping administration; declared formal independence, which is still not recognized by Serbia, in 2008

Source: Center for Strategic and International Studies, International Institute for Strategic Studies, "The Fall of Yugoslavia" by Misha Glenny, "Balkan Ghosts" by Robert D. Kaplan, The Times Atlas of World History, Shephard's Historical Atlas, The Times Atlas of World War II
Graphic: Pat Carr

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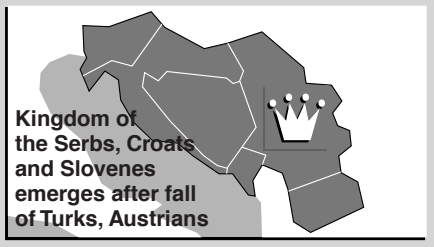
Decades of discord

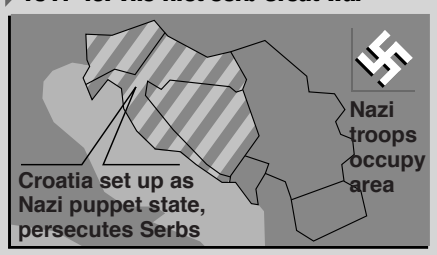
Conflict between Serbs and Croats has erupted several times during this century, the tensions contained only by dictators' strong wills

1919-41: An unruly Yugoslavia emerges



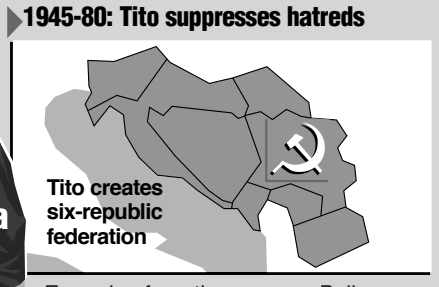
The treaty ending World War I cobbled a kingdom out of the fallen Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires; 10 years of quarrelling between Serbs and Croats, who thought Serbs dominated the kingdom, led King Alexander to rename it Yugoslavia and set up a virtual dictatorship in 1929; angry Croats reacted by forming a fascist separatist movement, the Ustase

1941-45: The first Serb-Croat war



In 1941, Hitler partitioned Yugoslavia, rewarding the Ustase with control of Croatia; thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies were killed by Croats and Germans, sometimes with the help of Bosnian Muslims.; the Ustase forced thousands of Orthodox Serbs to be baptized; Serbs retaliated. In the civil war that followed, as many as 1 million Yugoslavs died

1945-80: Tito suppresses hatreds



Emerging from the war as a Balkan leader, Josef Tito remade Yugoslavia as a federation under Communist government and kept it intact by suppressing ethnic rivalries; among his actions that angered Serbs was granting Vojvodina and Kosovo autonomy; his death in 1980 created a power vacuum, later filled by Serbian nationalist Slobodan Milosevic, who died in 2006 in prison awaiting verdict on war crimes charges

WORLD BRIEFS

Activists: Syrian troops continue offensives

BEIRUT (AP)—Activists say Syrian troops are assaulting and shelling restive regions in the north and center of the country despite an international cease-fire scheduled to go into effect within days. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says dozens of army vehicles are taking part in an attack east of the northwestern town of Jisr al-Shughour. It said explosions were heard in the area Sunday morning. Tarek Badrakhan, who is an activist in the central city of Homs, said troops fired mortar rounds Sunday at the rebel-held neighborhood of Khaldiyeh. Syrian President Bashar Assad last week accepted a cease-fire agreement brokered by international envoy Kofi Annan calling for government forces to withdraw from towns and villages by Tuesday.

Iraq: Video appears to show top Saddam deputy

BAGHDAD (AP)—A video posted online Saturday purports to show Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the highest ranking member of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime still at large, lashing out against Iraq's Shiite-led government. It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the video or determine when it was made. The man in the video, posted on a website linked to Saddam's now-outlawed Baath party, was introduced as al-Douri and bore a striking physical resemblance to the former Saddam deputy. He noted that nine years had passed since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, suggesting the video was made recently. Wearing an olive military uniform and eyeglasses, he criticized Iraq's Shiite-dominated government, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and what he said was meddling by neighboring Shiite powerhouse Iran. "Everyone can hear the sounds of danger echoing daily and threatening this country," he said during the hour-long address, adding that al-Maliki's Dawa Party "has announced Iraq as the Shiite capital, and called on all Arab leaders to surrender to this reality."

Christians celebrate Easter in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—Thousands of Christians are celebrating Easter Mass in Jerusalem in an array of processions and prayer sessions. In the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher, clergymen in flowing white and gold robes celebrated Mass, the air fragrant with incense. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, in the church on a private visit, joined the masses of Christian faithful. He shook hands with pilgrims and spoke to monks in the Old City. Just outside the ancient city's walls, about 350 Protestants sang Gospel music in the Garden Tomb, where Jesus is believed to be buried. Easter Sunday caps a week of holidays that commemorate the crucifixion and return to life of Jesus. Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Palm Sunday today and Easter next week.

Police: Explosion strikes central Nigeria

KADUNA, Nigeria (AP)—Police say an explosion has struck the city of Kaduna in central Nigeria. Kaduna state police spokesman Aminu Lawan said the explosion happened Sunday morning, but had no other details. A witness says the explosion happened near All Nation Christ Assembly church. Lawan says security forces are trying to surround the area and get more information. Both the United Kingdom and the United States warned its citizens that violence was possible this Easter weekend. A radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram has been carrying out attacks across the country.

Yemen's main airport reopens day after attack

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Security officials say Yemen's main airport has reopened a day after gunmen loyal to the nation's former president seized the facility in the capital Sanaa. The officials said normal air traffic resumed on Sunday. Supporters of former Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh attacked the airport on Saturday, with tanks and armored vehicles occupying the tarmac. Their action followed a military shakeup in which key commanders were fired. The officials also say a suspected U.S. drone fired a missile on Saturday evening that hit a car carrying al-Qaida militants in the south of the country. All eight occupants were killed in the strike. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Focus

Apple's 'iPad' is the only tablet people know

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— Apple is on the verge of doing what few others have: change the English language.

When you have a boo-boo, you reach for a Band-Aid not a bandage. When you need to blow your nose, you ask for Kleenex not tissue. If you decide to look up something online, you Google instead of search for it. And if you want to buy a tablet computer, there's a good chance there's only one name you'll remember.

"For the vast majority, the idea of a tablet is really captured by the idea of an iPad,'" says Josh Davis, a manager at Abt Electronics in Chicago. "They gave birth to the whole category and brought it to life."

Companies trip over themselves to make their brands household names. But only a few brands become so engrained in the lexicon that they're synonymous with the products themselves. This so-called "genericization" can be both good and bad for companies like Apple, which must balance their desire for brand recognition with their disdain for brand deterioration.

It's one of the biggest contradictions in business. Companies spend millions to create a brand. Then, they spend millions more on marketing that can have the unintended consequence of making those names so popular that they become shorthand for similar products. It's like if people start calling station wagons Bentleys. It can diminish a brand's reputation.

"There's tension between legal departments concerned about `genericide' and marketing departments concerned about sales," says Michael Atkins, a Seattle trademark attorney. "Marketing people want the brand name as widespread as possible and trademark lawyers worry ... the brand will lose all trademark significance."

It doesn't happen often. In fact, it's estimated that fewer than 5 percent of U.S. brand names become generic. Those that do typically are inventions or products that improve on what's already on the market. The brand names then become so popular that they eclipse rivals in sales, market share and in the minds' of consumers. And then they spread through the English language like the common cold in a small office.

"There's nothing that can be done to prevent it once it starts happening," says Michael Weiss, professor of linguistics at Cornell University. "There's no controlling the growth of language."

FIGHTING BACK

A company's biggest fear is that their brand name becomes so commonly used to describe a product that a judge rules that it's too "generic" to be a trademark. That means that any product - even inferior ones - can legally use the name. A brand usually is declared legally generic after a company sues another firm for using its name and the case goes to a federal court.

Drug maker Bayer lost trademarks for the names "aspirin" and "heroin" this way in the 1920s. So did B.F. Goodrich, which sued to protect its trademark of "zipper" in the 1920s after the name joined the world of common nouns. Similar cases deemed "escalator" generic in 1950, "thermos" generic in 1963 and "yo-yo" generic in 1965.

It's difficult to quantify how much revenue a company loses when its brand is deemed generic. But companies worry that it breeds confusion among consumers.

To prevent their names from becoming generic, some companies use marketing to reinforce their trademarks. For instance, after its Band-Aid brand name started becoming commonly used to refer to adhesive bandages, Johnson & Johnsons changed its jingle in ads from "I'm Stuck on Band-Aid" to "I'm Stuck on Band-Aid brand."

Kleenex uses "Kleenex brand" instead of just "Kleenex" on its packaging and in marketing and places ads to remind people Kleenex is trademarked. And the company contacts some people who use Kleenex generically to refer to tissue in order to correct them.

"We've worked very hard to keep `Kleenex' from going the route of `escalator' and `aspirin,'" says Vicki Margolis, vice president and chief counsel, intellectual property and global marketing for Kimberly-Clark, which owns Kleenex. "If we lose the trademark, people can use it with sandpaper and call that a Kleenex."

Xerox is taking a similar route. The company, which introduced the first automatic copier in the U.S. in 1959, has been on a public crusade for decades to keep its brand from becoming generic. The machine's success has led people to start using "Xerox" to refer to any copying machine, copies made from one and the act of copying.

"In the mid- to late-1970s, we ran dangerously close to Xerox becoming `genericized,'" says Barbara Basney, vice president of global advertising. "That prompted a lot of proactive action to protect our trademark."

Xerox has spent millions taking out ads aimed at educating so-called "influencers" like lawyers, journalists and entertainers about its brand name. A 2003 ad said: "When you use `Xerox' the way you use `aspirin,' we get a headache." More recently, a 2007 ad read: "If you use "Xerox" the way you use "zipper," our trademark could be left wide open."

While people still use "Xerox" generically - the Merriam-Webster dictionary lists the word as both a lower-case verb with the definition "to copy on a xerographic copier" and a trademarked noun - the brand says its campaign has been a success.

Xerox is still popular: It's ranked the 57th most valuable global brand, worth $6.4 billion, according to brand consultancy Interbrand. And perhaps most importantly, Xerox hasn't lost its trademark.

TAKING IT IN STRIDE

Sometimes companies embrace when their brands become common nouns.

Perhaps the best example of this is Google, a company created in 1998 when Alta Vista and Yahoo.com were the top online search engines. Google, which created a formula that returned more accurate results than its competitors, became so popular that people began saying "Google" to refer to a Web search, in general. Experts say Google has benefited from its name becoming a part of the lexicon.

"You don't say `Why don't I Google it' and go to Yahoo or Bing," says Jessica Litman, professor of copyright law at the University of Michigan Law School, referring to other search engines.

Apple also has gotten a boost from its brand names becoming synonymous with products. The iPod, which was the first digital music player when it came out in 2001, is still the name people use for "digital music player" or "MP3 player." And it appears Apple's iPad is headed down the same path.

For consumers like Mary Schmidt, 58, the "iPad" is generic for "tablet." Schmidt, a Baltimore marketing executive, owns an iPad and doesn't know the names of any other tablets.

"When I think of tablets, I think of an iPad," she says. "I think it's going to be the generic name. They were first."

It remains to be seen if the iPad will maintain its name domination in the tablet market. Apple declined to comment for this article.

For now, Apple Inc. has a majority of the tablet category, which includes Amazon's Kindle Fire and Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy Tablet. The iPad accounted for about 73 percent of the estimated 63.6 million tablets sold globally last year, according to research firm Gartner.

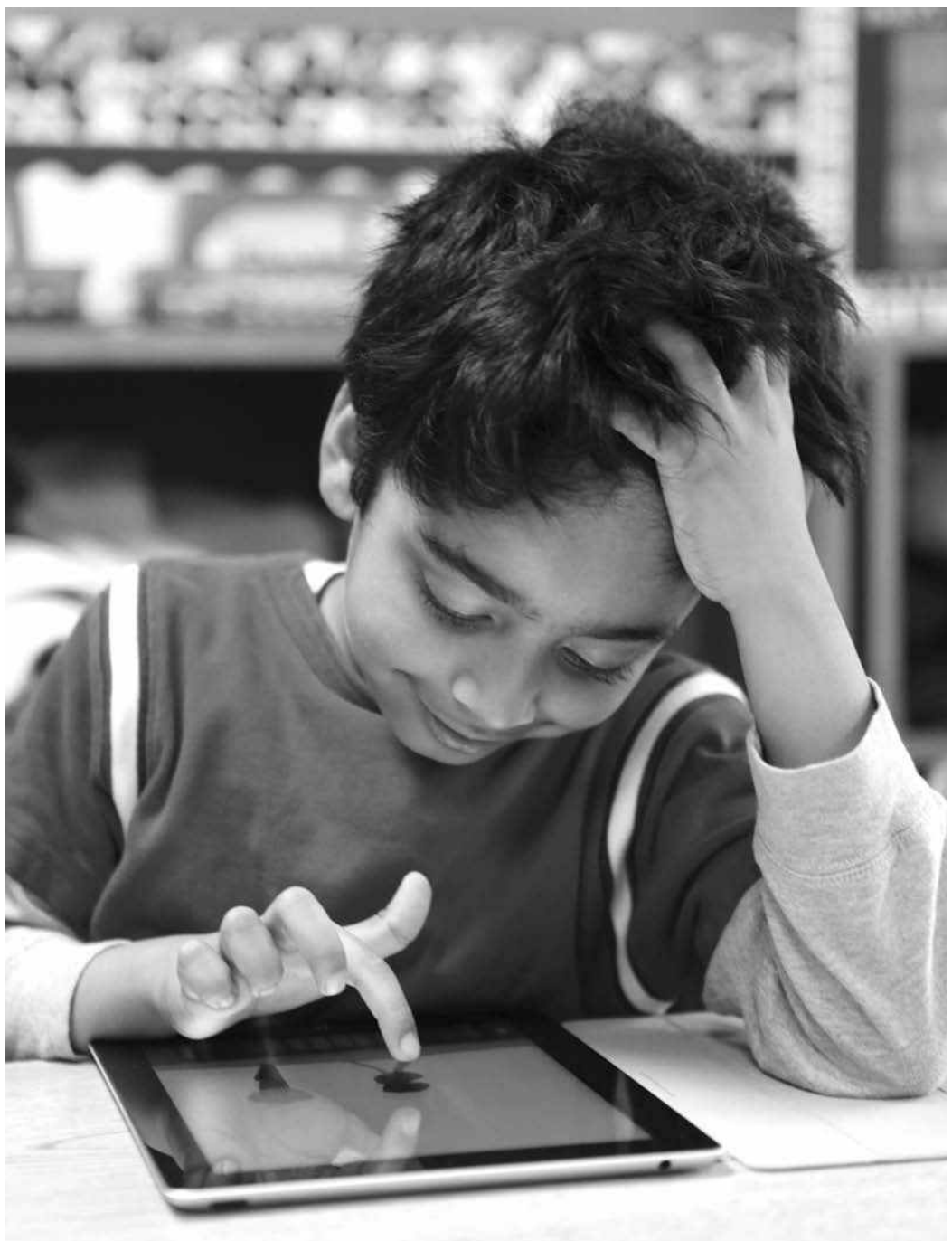
Apple's market share is likely to decline as more rivals roll out tablets. But experts say that won't necessarily diminish iPad's name recognition.

"Apple is actually pretty good at this," says Litman, the law school professor. "It's able to skate pretty close to the generics line while making it very clear the name is a trademark of the Apple version of this general category."

When the iPad debuted in 2010, some people offered up "Apple Tablet" or the "iTab" as better names. Others even suggested that the name sounded more like a feminine hygiene product than a tablet: "Get ready for Maxi pad jokes and lots of `em!" wrote tech site Gizmo at the time.

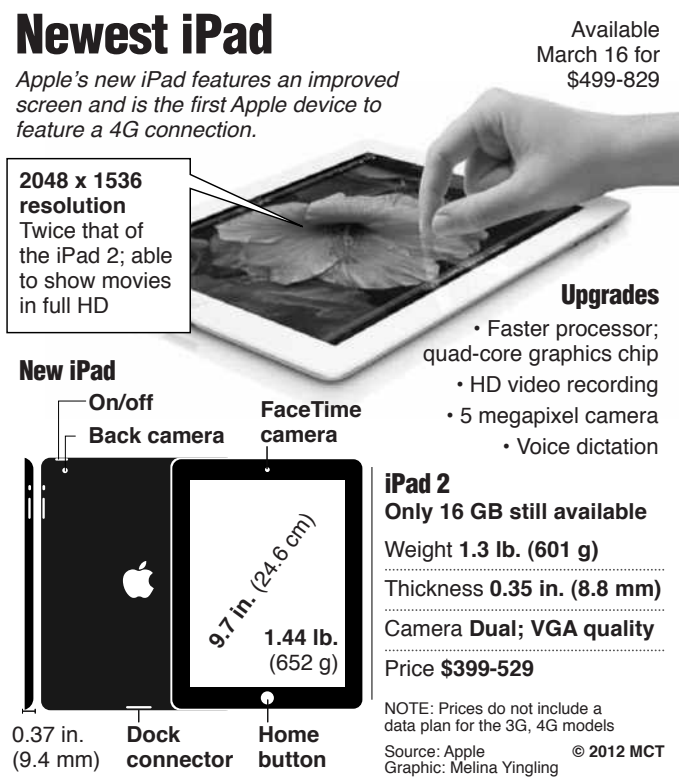
Two years later, those complaints are all but forgotten.

"At the end of the day, the product was so successful that even if it wasn't the `quote unquote' best name, it made the name synonymous with the category," says Allen Adamson, managing director at branding firm Landor.



MCT

Manav Bhargava, first-grader at Santa Rita Elementary School in Los Altos, California, practices using an iPad during class on Friday, February 17, 2012.


Newest iPad
Apple's new iPad features an improved screen and is the first Apple device to feature a 4G connection.
Available March 16 for $499-829
2048 x 1536 resolution
Twice that of the iPad 2; able to show movies in full HD
Upgrades
• Faster processor; quad-core graphics chip
• HD video recording
• 5 megapixel camera
• Voice dictation
New iPad
On/off
Back camera
FaceTime camera
9.7 in. (24.6 cm)
1.44 lb. (652 g)
0.37 in. (9.4 mm)
Dock connector
Home button
iPad 2
Only 16 GB still available
Weight 1.3 lb. (601 g)
Thickness 0.35 in. (8.8 mm)
Camera Dual; VGA quality
Price $399-529
NOTE: Prices do not include a data plan for the 3G, 4G models
Source: Apple
Graphic: Melina Yingling
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Health & Fitness

Doctors want to redefine autism; parents worried

CHICAGO (AP)—One child doesn't talk, rocks rhythmically back and forth and stares at clothes spinning in the dryer. Another has no trouble talking but is obsessed with trains, methodically naming every station in his state.

Autistic kids like these hate change, but a big one is looming.

For the first time in nearly two decades, experts want to rewrite the definition of autism. Some parents fear that if the definition is narrowed, their children may lose out on special therapies.

For years, different autism-related labels have been used, the best known being Asperger's disorder. The doctors working on the new definition want to eliminate separate terms like that one and lump them all into an "autism spectrum disorder" category.

Some specialists contend the proposal will exclude as many as 40 percent of kids now considered autistic. Parents of mildly affected children worry their kids will be left out and lose access to academic and behavioral services—and any chance of a normal life.

But doctors on the American Psychiatric Association panel that has proposed the changes say none of that would happen.

They maintain the revision is needed to dump confusing labels and clarify that autism can involve a range of symptoms from mild to severe. They say it will be easier to diagnose kids and ensure that those with true autism receive the same diagnosis.

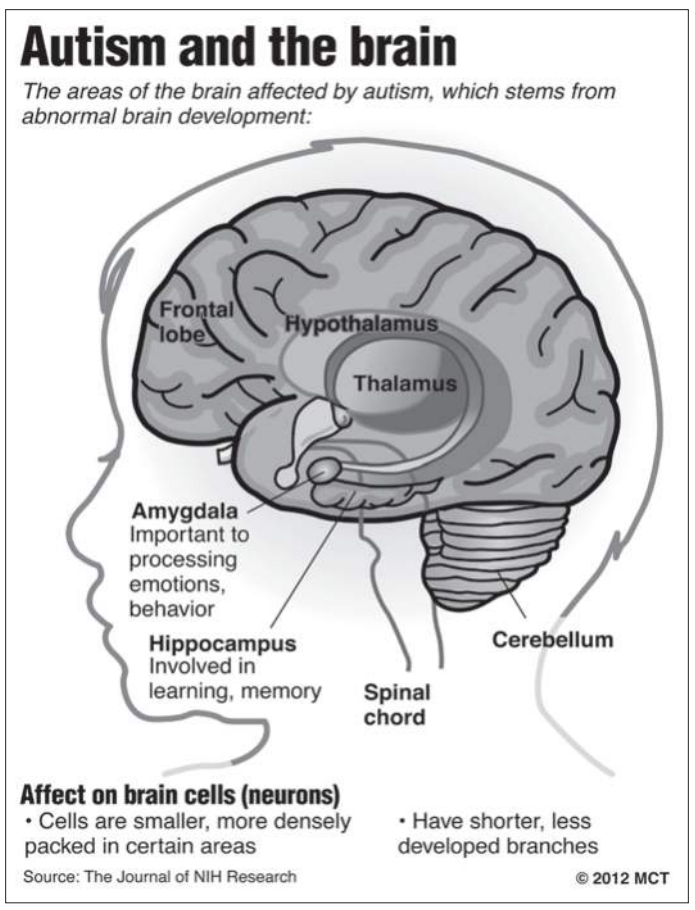
With new government data last week suggesting more kids than ever in the U.S.—1 in 88—have autism, the new definition may help clarify whether the rising numbers reflect a true increase in autism or overdiagnosis by doctors.

There is no definitive test for autism. The diagnosis that has been used for at least 18 years covers children who once were called mentally retarded, as well as some who might have merely been considered quirky or odd. Today, some children diagnosed with autism may no longer fit the definition when they mature.

"We're wanting to use this opportunity to get this diagnosis right," said Dr. Bryan King, a member of the revision panel and director of the autism center at Seattle Children's Hospital.

The revision is among dozens of changes proposed for an update of the psychiatric association's reference manual, widely used for diagnosing mental illnesses. The more than 10,000 comments the group has received for the update mostly involve the autism proposal, with concerns voiced by doctors, researchers, families and advocacy groups. A spokeswoman declined to say whether most support or oppose the autism revision.

The group's board of trustees is expected to vote on the proposals in December, and the updated manual is to be published next year.


Autism and the brain
The areas of the brain affected by autism, which stems from abnormal brain development:
Frontal lobe
Hypothalamus
Thalamus
Amygdala
Important to processing emotions, behavior
Hippocampus
Involved in learning, memory
Cerebellum
Spinal chord
Affect on brain cells (neurons)
• Cells are smaller, more densely packed in certain areas
• Have shorter, less developed branches
Source: The Journal of NIH Research
© 2012 MCT

Among the proposed changes:

■ A new "autism spectrum disorder" category would be created, describing symptoms that generally appear before age 3. It would encompass children with "autistic disorder," now used for severe cases, plus those with two high-functioning variations.

A diagnosis would require three types of communication problems, including limited or no conversation and poor social skills; and at least two repetitive behaviors or unusual, limited interests, including arm-flapping, tiptoe-walking and obsession with quirky topics.

■ Autistic disorder and high-functioning variations—Asperger's disorder and PDD-NOS, or "pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified"—would be eliminated, but their symptoms would be covered under the new category.

Asperger's kids often have vast knowledge about a quirky subject but poor social skills; PDD-NOS is notoriously ill-defined and sometimes given to kids considered mildly autistic.

■ Another new category, "social communication disorder," would include children who relate poorly to others and have trouble reading facial expressions and body language. A small percentage of children now labeled with PDD-NOS would fit more accurately into this diagnosis, autism panel members say.

They say the changes make scientific sense and are based on recent research.

Opponents include older kids and adults with Asperger's who embrace their quirkiness and don't want to be lumped in with more severe autism, and parents like Kelly Andrus of Lewisville, Texas. Her son, Bradley, was diagnosed with mild autism a year ago, at age 2.

"I'm really afraid we'd be pushed out of the services we get," she said. That includes a free preschool program for autistic kids and speech and occupational therapy, which cost her $50 a week. The family has no medical insurance.

Opponents also include a well-known Yale University autism researcher, Dr. Fred Volkmar, who was on the revision panel but says he was unhappy with the process and quit. "I want to be sure we're not going to leave some kids out in the cold," he said.

Researchers hunt for causes of autism

By LIZ SZABO
USA TODAY

For many families, the quest for the causes of autism has grown more urgent with the news that the estimated prevalence of autism in the United States grew by 23 percent from 2006 to 2008, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report out last week.

In most cases, however, scientists can't tell parents what caused their child's autism, says Thomas Insel, director of the National Institutes of Mental Health. In large part, the causes of autism—which is likely not one disease, but a group of conditions with related symptoms—remain a mystery.

For years, scientists had only a few clues about the condition, noticing that autism is about four times as common in boys as in girls, for example.

Recently, scientists have found a number of risk factors for autism, many of which point toward problems that develop very early in life—such as during pregnancy or delivery, or even during the process of creating eggs and sperm, says Craig Newschaffer, a professor at Philadelphia's Drexel University

To better understand causes of autism, researchers at four major universities are following 1,200 mothers of autistic children through a project called the EARLI study, or the Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation. Because researchers know that these moms are at high risk of having a second autistic child, they closely follow the women's subsequent pregnancies, testing blood, urine, hair, even vacuuming dust from the women's homes, says Newschaffer, one of the study's lead researchers. Researchers ask pregnant women to keep lists of any illnesses, since infections during pregnancy are suspected of playing a role in autism.

Doctors can confidently reassure parents that one thing doesn't cause autism—vaccines, says Paul Offit, chief of infectious diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Nearly two dozen studies have failed to find a link between autism and vaccines, whether given alone or in combination.

Researchers have clues to other causes:

■ GENES

About 15 percent to 20 percent of autistic children have a genetic mutation that causes their disorder, Insel says. Certain genetic disorders, such as Fragile X syndrome and Rett syndrome, are well-known for increasing the risk of autism. Even when genes are the main contributor to autism, however, it's possible that most children have a unique mutation or set of mutations, says David Amaral, research director of the University of California-Davis MIND Institute.

■ FAMILY HISTORY

If parents have one child with autism, the risk of having a second child diagnosed with the disorder is nearly 20 percent, according to a landmark study from the University of California-Davis. Among those with two autistic children, the risk of having a third is 32 percent, study author Sally Ozonoff says.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

One California study published last year found that babies whose mothers lived near a highway while pregnant were more likely to be diagnosed as autistic.

■ OLDER PARENTS

Both older fathers and mothers are at higher risk of having autistic children, Newschaffer says. Research from Israel and the Harvard School of Public Health also suggests that infertility treatments, which are more often used among older patients, are linked to a higher risk of autism.

■ PREMATURITY AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

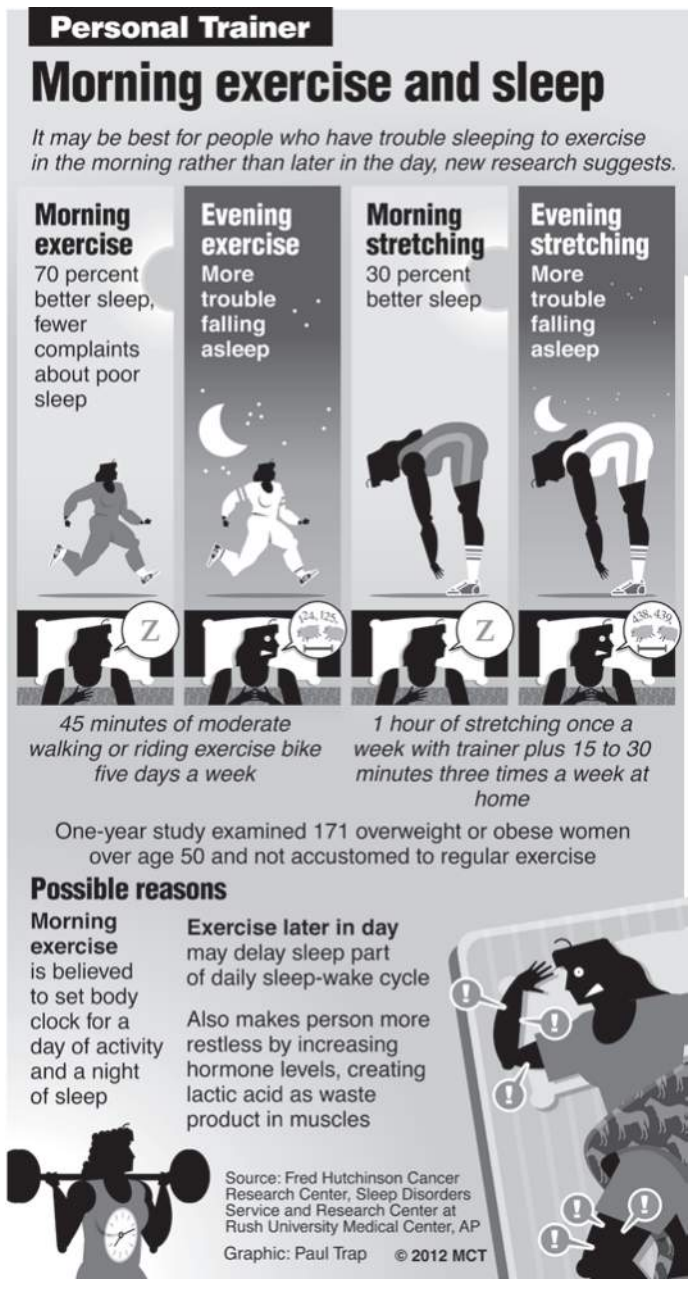
An October study in Pediatrics found that, among babies born weighing less than about 4.5 pounds, 5 percent had been diagnosed as autistic by age 21.

■ MEDICATIONS

Many studies now show that a seizure treatment called valproic acid can increase the risk of autism in children exposed before birth. A single study published last year found a higher risk among children exposed prenatally to antidepressants. Using prenatal vitamins is linked to a lower risk of autism.

■ CLOSELY SPACED PREGNANCIES

In a 2011 study, children who were born less than one year after an older sibling were three times as likely to be diagnosed with autism, compared with children born three years after their mom's last pregnancy.


Personal Trainer
Morning exercise and sleep
It may be best for people who have trouble sleeping to exercise in the morning rather than later in the day, new research suggests.
Morning exercise
70 percent better sleep, fewer complaints about poor sleep
Evening exercise
More trouble falling asleep
Morning stretching
30 percent better sleep
Evening stretching
More trouble falling asleep
45 minutes of moderate walking or riding exercise bike five days a week
1 hour of stretching once a week with trainer plus 15 to 30 minutes three times a week at home
One-year study examined 171 overweight or obese women over age 50 and not accustomed to regular exercise
Possible reasons
Morning exercise is believed to set body clock for a day of activity and a night of sleep
Exercise later in day may delay sleep part of daily sleep-wake cycle
Also makes person more restless by increasing hormone levels, creating lactic acid as waste product in muscles
Source: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Sleep Disorders Service and Research Center at Rush University Medical Center, AP
Graphic: Paul Trap
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Life & Style

Airline employee resigns amid celeb tip-off claims

By RAPHAEL SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—A Virgin Atlantic employee has resigned following allegations she routinely fed information about the airline's celebrity clientele—from Madonna to Sienna Miller—to a paparazzi agency.

The employee was a junior member of the team that looks after high-profile clients, Virgin said Friday. She quit Thursday before reports published in the Guardian and the Press Gazette alleged that she had passed the booking information of more than 60 celebrities on to the Big Pictures photo agency.

Among those allegedly targeted: Britain's Princess Beatrice; singers Madonna and Rihanna; actors Charlize Theron, Kate Winslet, Daniel Radcliffe and Miller; comedians Sacha Baron Cohen and Russell Brand; and a slew of U.K. celebrities and sports figures.

The Guardian and the Press Gazette cited messages allegedly sent by the employee to someone at Big Pictures Ltd. as the basis for their stories.

The Associated Press had no immediate way of verifying the authenticity of the messages, but the Guardian said it had carried out checks confirming that at least some of the celebrities had traveled to the destinations mentioned in the emails.

Calls and emails to representatives of around a dozen of the celebrities mentioned went unreturned Friday, a public holiday in Britain. A representative for Princess Beatrice declined comment, while Kate Winslet's publicist, Heidi Slan, said the star wasn't reachable.

In a statement, Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd. called the allegations "extremely serious" and said it had launched an investigation. The airline, which is majority-owned by billionaire adventurer Richard Branson, confirmed that high-profile clients were involved but declined to comment on the British newspapers' figures.

A man who answered the phone at London-based Big Pictures hung up when an Associated Press reporter identified himself as a member of the media. Emails sent to company founder Darryn Lyons' personal assistant weren't immediately returned, and no one answered the door at Big Pictures' central London office.

The Press Gazette said Big Pictures was first approached for comment more than 48 hours ago but has yet to respond.

Neither Virgin nor the newspapers identified the employee in question. The Guardian said it had contacted her on Wednesday and that she had declined comment.

It was not clear Friday if authorities had become involved. Virgin refused to say whether it had called in the police and a Scotland Yard spokesman said he wasn't aware of the leak.

The Information Commissioner's office—which investigates data breaches in Britain—said in a statement that the agency will need to make further inquiries "to establish the precise nature of the alleged incident before deciding what action, if any, needs to be taken."

The past year has seen the sometimes underhanded methods of Britain's media thrust into the spotlight by a scandal over phone hacking at the now-defunct News of the World.

Paparazzi have come under particular scrutiny, with public figures including Miller alleging aggressive, intimidating or illegal behavior on the part of celebrity-obsessed snappers.

Miller, who testified before a judge-led inquiry into media ethics set up in the wake of the scandal, said she had been terrorized by photographers stalking her every move.

"I would often find myself—I was 21—at midnight running down a dark street on my own with ten big men chasing me and the fact that they had cameras in their hands meant that that was legal," she told the inquiry.

"But if you take away the cameras, what have you got? You've got a pack of men chasing a woman and obviously that's a very intimidating situation to be in."

Matt Lauer tells viewers he's staying at 'Today'

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matt Lauer is sticking with NBC's "Today," ending speculation that the top-rated show might have to face ABC's rising "Good Morning America" without him.

Lauer has signed a long-term contract to remain as co-host of the No. 1 morning show, a long-anticipated deal that NBC announced Thursday night but Lauer made public on "Today" Friday morning.

"This is my family," he said on the air as the "Today" crew and co-anchors burst into applause.

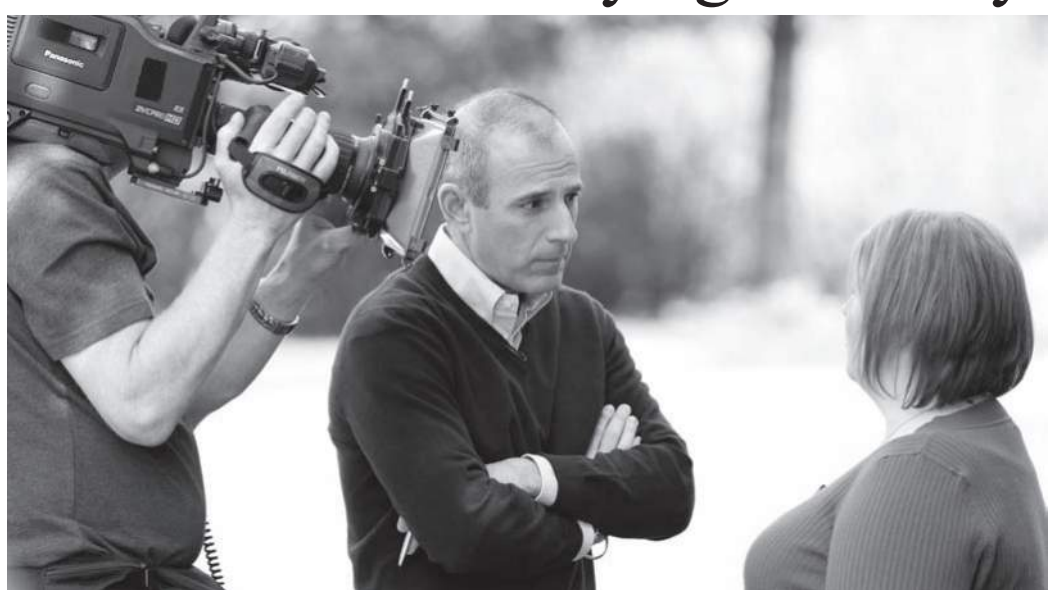
"Truth be told," he joked, "I was developing an idea for a new show, where viewers could tune in every morning and see someone they know lose a little more of his hair every single day right in front of their eyes. But then I thought, I could just stay here and do that."

Although "Today" is on a historic winning streak in the ratings, "Good Morning America" has been gaining ground.

Lauer's decision provides important stability for "Today" and puts to rest suggestions that he might reunite with his former co-host Katie Couric on the syndicated show she's launching this fall.

Lauer said last May that he had discussed joining with Couric on a new venture. But he predicted then that he would be staying at "Today" for "a long time."

"Given how strong the 'Today' show has been, I don't think the outcome was ever in doubt," said industry analyst Larry Gerbrandt of Los Angeles-based Media Valuation Partners.



AP

Matt Lauer, NBC "Today" television show co-host, talks with Karilyn Bales, the wife of Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 17 Afghan civilians, for an interview broadcast Monday, March 26, 2012.

Lauer has been a fixture with the show since 1994 and began his run as co-anchor in January 1997. He has created a popular "Today" catchphrase with his globe-hopping "Where in the world is Matt Lauer?" segments.

Over at ABC, archrival "Good Morning America" gave Lauer an attaboy on its Friday telecast.

"Matt, you set the bar so high every day," said co-host George Stephanopoulos in voicing his congratulations.

Beside him sat Couric, who, now at ABC, has been subbing as co-host on "GMA" all week. She passed along her own greetings to her "old partner-in-crime," and announced that "GMA" had sent Lauer a bucket of golf balls as a gift.

"Take all the time off to perfect your golf game," Stephanopoulos proposed.

For broadcast networks, morning represents one of the most important parts of the day. The shows are hugely profitable at a time of declining TV viewership, and none has been more of a cash cow than "Today."

"Today" has remained No. 1 in the weekly ratings since 1995.

A recent report said Lauer could end up with a $25 million deal, but NBC President Steve Capus dismissed the speculation as "complete silliness," The New York Times said. NBC declined to provide further details Thursday on the contract.

The morning scene drew increased attention this week as the NBC and ABC programs featured dueling celebrity co-hosts: "Today" had former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin for a day, while Couric spent the week filling in at "GMA."

Flagged in advance, Lauer's announcement Friday was likely to also serve as a ratings stunt against his one-time colleague.

Palin, the former Alaska governor, helped "Today" maintain its winning streak against "GMA" on Tuesday, but Wednesday proved a cautionary tale for NBC. With Couric on board, "Good Morning America" was able to claim a one-day victory in viewership over "Today."

Winfrey calls her new cable venture a tough climb

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says creating her new cable network has turned out to be a steep climb.

"I'm climbing Kilimanjaro," she told advertisers Thursday at a presentation for OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network. She quickly explained that her Kilimanjaro is at the offices of OWN.

"You know that song, 'The Time of My Life'? I've had the climb of my life," she cracked.

The network has struggled to build an audience since its launch in January 2011. It recently announced severe staff layoffs and a management shakeup with Discovery Communications, the company that's bankrolled it with $300 million-plus.

But Winfrey struck a hopeful note in her brief remarks, even as she allowed she's still nowhere near the channel's summit of success.

AP

In this April 14, 2011 publicity image originally released by OWN, TV personality and media mogul Oprah Winfrey presents at the OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network portion of the Discovery Communications Upfront at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York.

"With our restructuring and right-sizing and getting into the sauce of what needs to happen every day, I feel like I can at least now see the summit," she said.

OWN was unveiling four new prime-time series, including "Elura and Michele Take Staten Island," a reality series with two outspoken former prosecutors who tell people how to straighten out their problems; "Iyanla Fix My Life," starring the author and inspirational speaker Iyanla Vanzant; "Married to the Army: Alaska," which focuses on Alaska-based wives and families of military troops who are off serving in Afghanistan; and "Six Little McGhees," about high school sweethearts Mia and Rozonno McGhee, parents of the first sextuplets born in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition, OWN will introduce a new game show, "Are You Normal, America?" It measures its contestants' opinions and habits against those of the nation overall.

Winfrey's appearance at the Discovery "upfront" presentation came the week she was interviewed on "CBS This Morning" about her challenges at OWN.

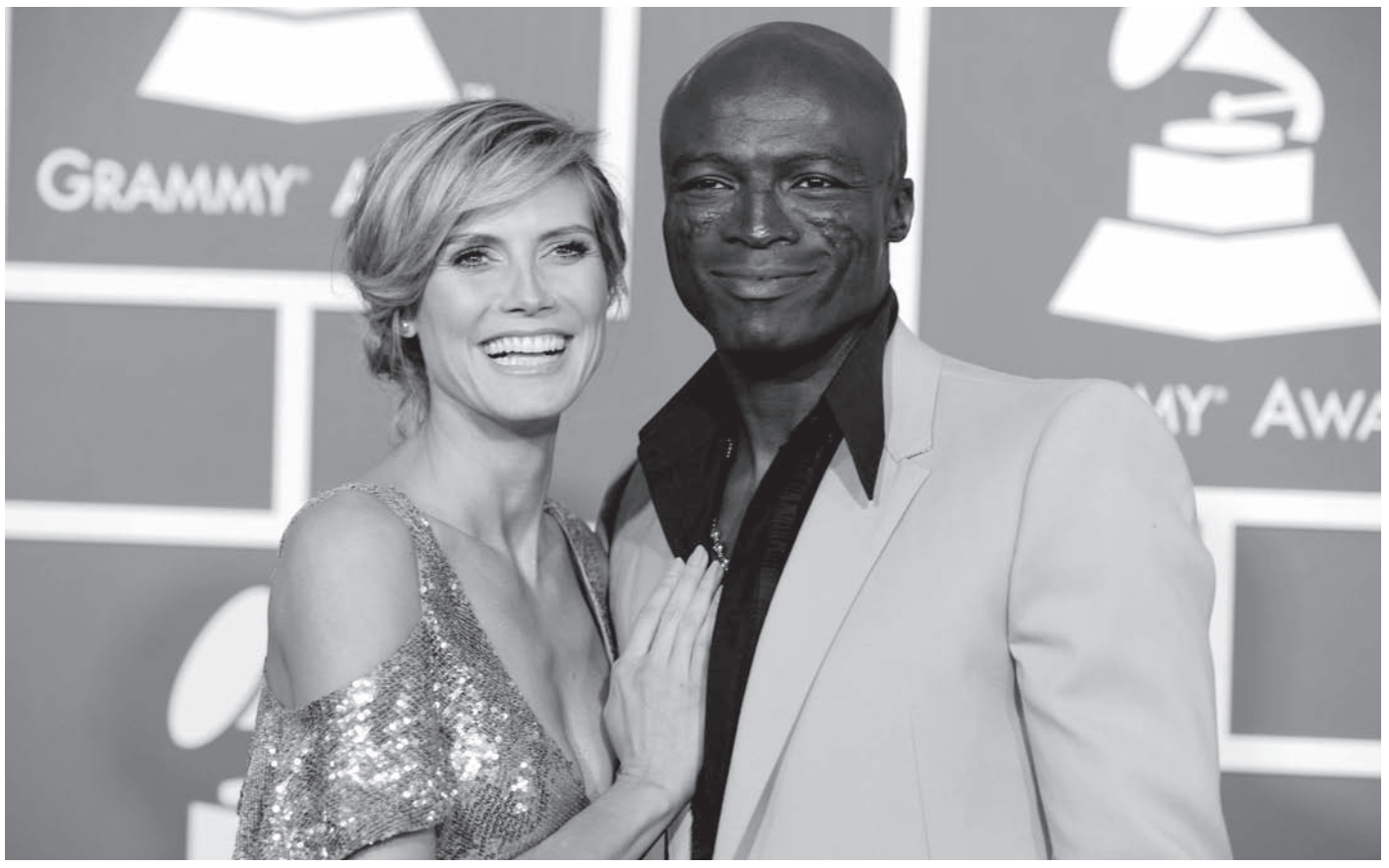
"The idea of creating a network was something that I wanted to do," she told the program's co-host—and her best friend—Gayle King on Monday. She added, "Had I known that it was this difficult, I might have done something else."

"If I knew then what I know now, I might have made different choices," she declared. "If I were writing a book about it, I could call the book '101 Mistakes.'"

Among those mistakes: going on the air before the network was ready.

But Winfrey insisted, "I feel better about our network now, today, than I ever have."

Heidi Klum files for divorce from Seal in LA



AP

In this Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, Heidi Klum, left, and Seal arrive at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heidi Klum moved to formally end her marriage Friday from singer Seal a little over two months after they separated.

The supermodel's divorce filing in a Los Angeles court draws to a close a storybook romance that included numerous testaments to their affection for one another, including renewing their wedding vows annually and throwing elaborate Halloween costume parties.

The couple has four children together, including Klum's daughter from a previous relationship. They had been married for more than six and a half years when they announced their separation in January, vowing to keep their breakup amicable.

Klum's filing, which she signed Thursday, cites irreconcilable differences. It provides no details about their split, other than that they entered into a financial agreement after they were married on how to divide their assets.

The model and star of the TV competition series "Project Runway" is asking for sole physical custody of the children, with Seal getting visitation and joint legal custody.

The Grammy-winning soul and R&B singer's real name Henry Samuel. He released an album days after the couple announced their breakup and told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres that their split didn't mean a total end to their relationship.

"We will be connected in many ways 'til the rest of our lives," the singer said, "through our children and also through this tremendous admiration, respect and love that we have for each other."

Filipino performer experiences own Mideast crisis

By ROBIN McDOWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The last thing Filipino performer Carlos Celdran expected at the largest art fair in the Middle East was to be picked up by security officials, questioned, and ordered to remove political and religious references from his show.

"It never occurred to me this would be sensitive," Celdran said of his act about former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, which was performed in Dubai to a backdrop of paintings and sculptures.

Celdran's story takes place in the 1970s, when Imelda's husband, Ferdinand, declared martial law and her developing nation became an unlikely player on the global stage—thanks to its relationship with the U.S., which considered it an important ally in the Cold War.

AP

In this Oct. 1, 2010 file photo, Filipino artist Carlos Celdran holds on prison bars inside the detention cell in Manila, Philippines.

Imelda Marcos, who lived lavishly while others lived in squalor and in fear of her husband's iron-fisted rule, used state-sponsored arts and culture to create an image that society was progressing.

Celdran said human rights and freedom of expression can often be compromised to push the agenda along when nations do that—whether by hosting an Olympics, a Miss Universe pageant, or an international arts fair.

"If there are any parallels to what's going on in the Middle East, that's up to you to find, not me," Celdran said in a recent interview.

His was not the only case of censorship at the Art Dubai 2012 fair, which was held last month and attracted unprecedented interest in its sixth year largely because of the Arab Spring uprisings.

At least four paintings were taken down ahead of a visit by the emirate's ruling family, including one depicting the beating by soldiers and police of an Egyptian woman, her blue bra exposed, in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Another was of a woman holding underwear with "leave" written across the front, the word often chanted by Arab Spring protesters during their demonstrations.

Antonia Carver, director of Art Dubai, downplayed the significance.

"It is common worldwide for the authorities to check exhibitions for particularly sensitive content when expecting royal visits," she said in an email. "We had over 500 artists on show and we were asked that a gallery take down and store a minimal number of works."

As for Celdran's act, she said that security officials just wanted to talk to him, and that it was his decision, ultimately, to cancel.

She said she was not in the room during Celdran's hour-long interrogation, and did not elaborate.

But Celdran said references to religion and politics raised the loudest alarm bells.

Grass says critical poem meant to target Netanyahu

BERLIN (AP)—German Nobel literature laureate Guenter Grass, under fire for a poem that sharply criticized Israel, said he was singling out the Jewish state's government, not the country as a whole.

The poem drew sharp rebukes at home and from Israel, including accusations of being anti-Semitic, but Grass received praise from a senior Iranian official Saturday.

In the poem published in European dailies Wednesday, the 84-year-old German author criticized what he described as Western hypocrisy over Israel's nuclear program and labeled the country a threat to "already fragile world peace" over its belligerent stance on Iran.

In an interview published Saturday by the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Grass said he sought foremost to single out Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, whose policies "are creating ever more enemies of Israel, and are ever more increasing the country's isolation."

"The man who damages Israel the most at the moment is in my opinion Netanyahu—and I should have included that in the poem," Grass was quoted as saying.

Grass

The left-leaning Grass established himself as a leading literary figure with "The Tin Drum," published in 1959, and won the Nobel Prize in 1999. He urged fellow Germans to confront their painful Nazi history in the decades after World War II.

However, his image suffered a bruising when he admitted in his 2006 autobiography that at age 17 he was drafted into the Waffen-SS, the combat arm of the Nazis' paramilitary organization, in the final months of World War II.

In his poem, Grass called for "unhindered and permanent control of Israel's nuclear capability and Iran's atomic facilities through an international body." Also, he specifically criticized Israel's "claim to the right of a first strike" against Iran.

"What is now an imminent threat is a risk without parallel—a preventive strike, a first strike against Iran which would have terrible consequences," Grass told Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

In a sharp-worded response to the poem, Netanyahu rebuked Grass' views as "ignorant and reprehensible."

His "shameful moral equivalence between Israel and Iran, a regime that denies the Holocaust and threatens to annihilate Israel, says little about Israel and much about Mr. Grass," Netanyahu said in a statement dated Thursday.

"For six decades, Mr. Grass hid the fact that he had been a member of the Waffen SS. So for him to cast the one and only Jewish state as the greatest threat to world peace and to oppose giving Israel the means to defend itself is perhaps not surprising," he added.

But Iran's deputy culture minister, Javad Shamaqdari, said Saturday that by criticizing Israel, Grass beautifully carried out his human and historical responsibility, and his revelation of "truth may awaken the silent conscience" of the West.

Current TV countersues Olbermann, seeks damages

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Current TV rebutted a scathing lawsuit filed by Keith Olbermann by filing a countersuit Friday detailing alleged bad behavior by its former liberal talk show host and seeking a judge's ruling that he is not entitled to any more money from the network.

The networks' filing paints Olbermann as a petulant figure after he was hired to be Current's signature host, rejecting seven limousine companies, refusing to cooperate in promotional discussions and taking vacations with little notice.

Olbermann

The complaint claims Olbermann wrote to Current co-founder Joel Hyatt to complain about a problem with a guest, "Give me a name so I know which of them to kill with my bare hands," and threw a glass mug on the set, which prompted a complaint from the set's landlord.

The network's filing accuses Olbermann of breaching his contract by disclosing terms of the lucrative deal, refusing to cooperate in promoting the show and taking days off without permission.

The countersuit comes one day after Olbermann sued his former employer, claiming it violated his agreement, engaged in shoddy production values and owed him more than $50 million.

"Current seeks a determination that it is no longer obligated to pay a dime to Mr. Olbermann who, having already been paid handsomely for showing up sporadically and utterly failing to keep his end of the bargain, now seeks to be paid tens of millions more for not working at all," the filing states.

The network and Olbermann have been at odds for months, and the dispute has escalated in the days since the former "Countdown" host was fired last week.

Current's suit claims Olbermann has damaged the network and will continue to do so. It seeks unspecified damages.

After two days of court filings, it was clear neither side was pulling punches in its description of the other.

Olbermann's lawsuit repeatedly attacked the network and described Hyatt and co-founder Al Gore as "dilettantes portraying entertainment industry executives."

"Olbermann deeply regrets his decision to put his trust in Hyatt and Gore," the lawsuit claims. "Current had neither the desire nor the ability to produce a first rate news commentary show. Olbermann did not join Current to ruin his hard-won reputation and appear on a show that was an embarrassment."

His lawsuit described a litany of technical issues, including shoddy equipment that wouldn't work if it rained, "terrible sound and filming" of the show, segments that abruptly dropped off the air, busted teleprompters and an earpiece that repeatedly malfunctioned.

Current's filing Friday claims Olbermann refused to cooperate in discussions about improving the set, and in general refused to promote the network.

Olbermann's lawsuit denied several of the claims, including that he leaked information about his contract and that his absences were unauthorized.

Amanda Bynes arrested on suspicion of DUI

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2009 file photo, Amanda Bynes arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say actress Amanda Bynes has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after she grazed a sheriff's patrol car.

The 26-year-old actress was arrested around 3 a.m. Friday in West Hollywood.

The Los Angeles County sheriff's department says that Bynes attempted to pass a patrol car making a right turn when she hit it. Deputies who arrested her suspect she was drunk at the time.

Bynes is being held on $5,000 bail. Her publicist, Melissa Raubvogel, did not immediately return a call and an email from The Associated Press.

The actress appeared in the 2010 film "Easy A" and the Nickelodeon series "What I Like About You."

Deputies say there was paint damage to both cars, but no one was injured.

'Evita' star Ricky Martin still feels stage pangs

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricky Martin commands the stage with an air of confidence, yet the Latin superstar admits to being self-conscious at times.

"I'm still human, and sometimes I feel uncertain about things," Martin admitted Thursday night at the Broadway premiere of the revival of "Evita," the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

The Grammy-winning performer is "Livin La Vida Familia" with his partner, Carlos, and their twin sons.

"I'm loving every minute of it. Loving every minute of it," Martin said.

Martin plays Che, the everyman narrator in the show currently playing at the Marquis Theater in New York.

AP

In this March 12, 2012 file photo, from left, Michael Cerveris, Elena Roger and Ricky Martin appear at the curtain call after their first performance in the new Broadway production of "Evita" in New York.

Artifacts worth $3.2 million stolen from UK museum

LONDON (AP)—Two Chinese artifacts with an estimated combined value of 2 million pounds ($3.2 million) have been stolen from a British museum, authorities said Saturday.

Two men and a woman from the West Midlands area have been arrested in connection with the Thursday night theft at Durham University's Oriental Museum, but the items had not yet been recovered, police said.

The northern England-based university confirmed that two "priceless" artifacts were stolen when thieves broke into a ground-floor gallery at the museum: a large jade bowl with a Chinese poem written inside that dates back to 1769, and a Dehua porcelain sculpture.

"We are extremely upset to have fallen victim to such a serious crime," museum curator Craig Barclay said in a statement. "The two pieces are highly significant in that they are fine examples of artifacts from the Qing Dynasty."

Police said they were still trying to locate "several outstanding suspects." The museum will be closed until further notice, the university said.

The university said police and security guards were alerted immediately by alarms, but declined to comment further on its security systems.

3 ex-bandmates file suit against Chris Daughtry

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)—Three of Chris Daughtry's former bandmates are suing him, claiming he defrauded them out of proceeds from four songs that included music and lyrics they wrote together.

The News & Record of Greensboro reports (http://bit.ly/Hnip07) bassist Ryan Andrews, drummer Scott Crawford and guitarist Mark Perry filed suit Thursday in Guilford County Superior Court.

The lawsuit accuses Daughtry of "constructive fraud, breaches of fiduciary duty, unfair trade practices, and other deceptive and wrongful conduct."

Daughtry posted a statement on his band's website saying he was hurt by the accusations and that the songs listed in the lawsuit were written solely by him.

Daughtry reached stardom in 2006 when he placed fourth on "American Idol," and recorded hits such as "Home," ''It's Not Over" and "No Surprise."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

TV show 'Stars Earn Stripes' will test celebrities

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A new TV series will test celebrities against the demands of military exercises. "Stars Earn Stripes" is the working title of the NBC show from veteran producers Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") and Mark Burnett ("Survivor," ''The Voice"). Nine celebrities from music, sports and Hollywood will be paired with trainers at a "top-notch, secret training facility," the producers said in a statement Thursday. The contestants will face weekly challenges such as hostage-rescue exercises or placing a laser target atop a mountain. Burnett, who joined the British military at age 17 and served as a paratrooper, said celebrities and the audience will realize how "hard and scary" such tasks are. An air date for "Stars Earn Stripes" wasn't announced.

Bob Weinstein's wife files for divorce in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—The wife of film producer Bob Weinstein has filed for divorce in New York and is seeking an order of protection. Court papers say Anne Weinstein is seeking the protection order because she fears "bodily harm." A spokesman for Bob Weinstein says his wife was reacting to a family intervention to get her to deal with a drinking problem. He says there is no abuse. The two married in 2000. Anne Weinstein is a former book editor. They have two children. Bob Weinstein and his brother Harvey are New York natives and Hollywood mainstays who have run their own film company since breaking off from Disney and Miramax, which they helped found. They have been involved in highly successful films such as "Pulp Fiction" and "The English Patient."

Australian actor Matthew Newton arrested in Miami

MIAMI (AP)—Authorities say Australian actor Matthew Newton has been released from a Miami jail following a weekend arrest. A Miami-Dade County jail official says the 35-year-old Newton was arrested Friday evening on charges of resisting police and trespassing on property after a warning. He was released Saturday evening on $2,000 bond. Newton has had legal troubles before. In 2010, Australian "Transformers" actress Rachael Taylor took out a restraining order against then-boyfriend Newton, accusing him of violently assaulting her while the couple were in Rome. He was dropped as host of a new Australian talent series. In 2007, he pleaded guilty to assaulting then-girlfriend Brooke Satchwell during a breakup argument. Earlier that year, Newton spent 28 days in a Melbourne rehab clinic that specializes in drug and alcohol issues.

Teen in throes of depression knows she has to get help

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I really need some feedback. When I was 13, I would cut myself. I stopped around 15 after an attempted overdose that didn't work. I did it because my parents were stressed due to money problems and ignored me or yelled at me a lot. I was also bullied in school. I had just moved here, so there was no one to turn to.

Suddenly, in the last week, I have begun binge eating. I see no hope for me graduating, no hope for my life or my future. I wake up wanting to go back to sleep or overdose. My wrists have throbbed at the thought of wanting to cut again, and last night I had a dream of jumping off a building. All day I have had the same daydream of hitting the ground. I cry randomly for no reason. I have thought of multiple ways to kill myself.

This just started. I can't see why I can't be happy. My brother is coming home from Afghanistan. I should be ecstatic.

I plan on talking to a counselor tomorrow because I am not sure how to handle this. I don't want to get into such a state that I'll let myself overdose again. Thank you for your time. I just need some guidance on how to handle this.

WAVERING GIRL IN WATERTOWN, N.Y.

DEAR WAVERING GIRL: You are also a smart girl to be reaching out for help. I hope by the time you read this you will have spoken to a counselor about your feelings, because it appears you are suffering from a severe depression, which can impair a person's judgment. Being bullied at school and worried about graduating would be enough to trigger it. The behaviors you describe mean you need to talk to—and probably be medicated by—a mental health care professional.

If you had given me your phone number, I would have talked with you personally about this -- and, with your permission, spoken to your parents about it. Your counselor can help you reach out for the help you need, but if you experience more suicidal impulses, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 800-273-8255.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I work for a small company. Employees here bring in treats to share and leave them in our break area so coworkers can help themselves. One employee, "Karen," sits at a desk that is very near the lounge, and snaps to attention when anyone walks by with treats in hand. Then she jumps up and follows them into the lounge, where she lingers until the snacks are ready.

She'll hover over the trays of whatever is being offered while eating "samples." Then she takes a huge helping and stands nearby while she eats it. She follows that up by taking more back to her desk. It's annoying to see a plate of cookies or a pan of brownies that were brought to share with everyone gobbled down by one person.

Karen earns a good salary. She certainly has enough money to buy her own food. So, Abby, what's a good way to tell her to stop?

MISSING MY COOKIES IN ERIE, PA.

DEAR MISSING YOUR COOKIES: Try this. The next time one of you brings a treat to the office, put a sign next to it that reads, "One to a customer, please," or tell "Miss Piggy" in plain English that she's taking too much of a good thing.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

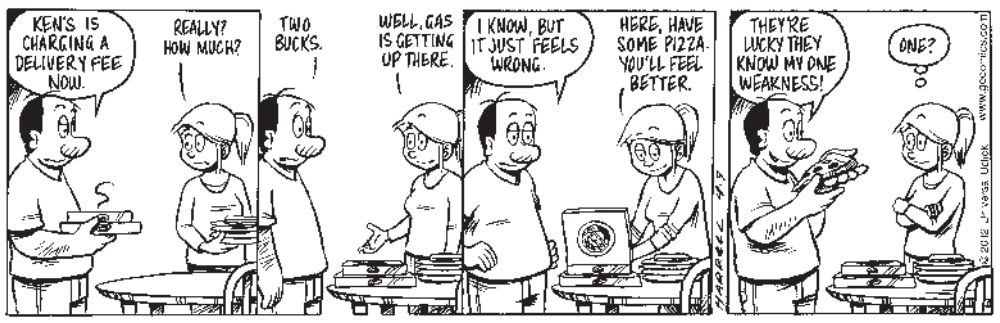
DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL? YOU KNOW, A SUPREME EVIL BEING DEDICATED TO THE TEMPTATION, CORRUPTION, AND DESTRUCTION OF MAN?
I'M NOT SURE MAN NEEDS THE HELP.
YOU JUST CAN'T TALK TO ANIMALS ABOUT THESE THINGS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

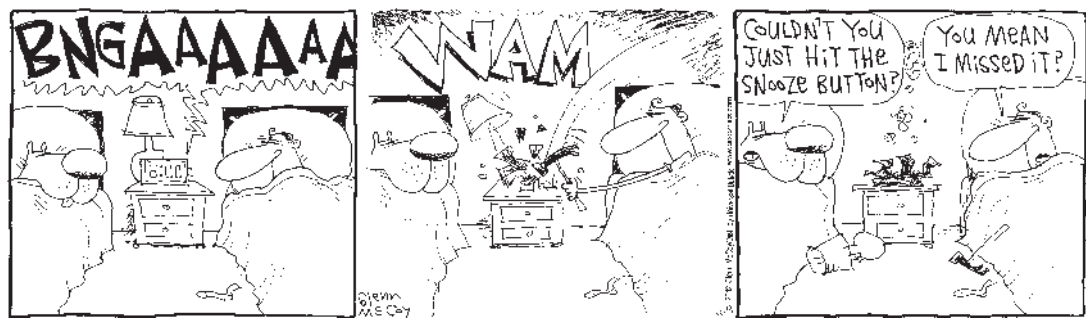
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KEN'S IS CHARGING A DELIVERY FEE NOW.
REALLY? HOW MUCH?
TWO BUCKS.
WELL, GAS IS GETTING UP THERE.
I KNOW, BUT IT JUST FEELS WRONG.
HERE, HAVE SOME PIZZA. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
THEY'RE LUCKY THEY KNOW MY ONE WEAKNESS!
ONE?
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

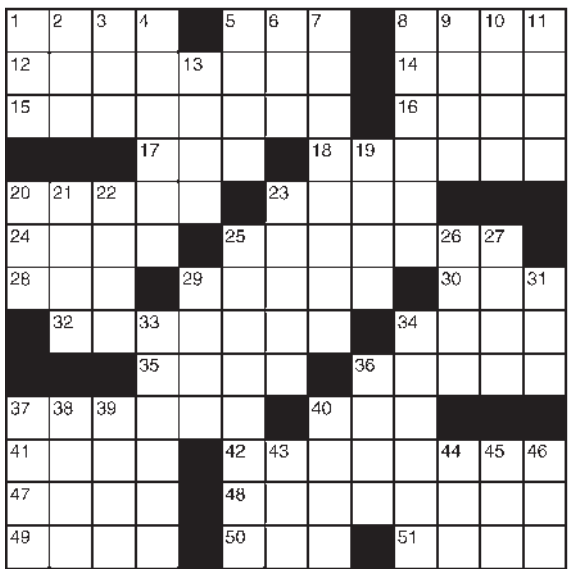
ACROSS
1 Columns' crossers
5 Head of st.
8 Despot
12 Turkish peninsula region
14 Crosby's pal
15 Predict
16 Parks at a bus stop?
17 Bowling target
18 Danish money
20 Covers a present
23 Actress Cannon
24 Roll call reply
25 Skill for an identity thief
28 Longing
29 "Sesame Street" Muppet
30 Lummox
32 "Wheel of —"
34 Staff
35 Operatic solo
36 Rouse
37 Hedge shrub
40 Listener
41 Jeans-maker Strauss
42 Strong
47 Alda or Thicke
48 Become a band of workers
49 Zilch
50 CSA leader
51 Branch of advanced math

DOWN
1 U.K. fliers
2 John's Yoko
3 Simple card game
4 Treeless plain
5 Singer Campbell
6 Lubricate
7 Valhalla maiden
8 Royal seat
9 Any time now
10 Church area
11 Back
13 Elevator name
19 Anger
20 "How come?"
21 Coral construction
22 River through Florence
23 Summer or Shalala
25 Productive
26 Chess castle
27 Harvard rival
29 To be (Fr.)
31 Swamp
33 Gorge
34 Mom or dad
36 Texas city
37 Blueprint
38 Move, to a Realtor
39 — the Terrible
40 Great Lake
43 Individual
44 Evergreen type
45 Submachine gun
46 Segment of a trip

Solution time: 24 mins.

E	A	T	S		G	Y	M	S		F	A	D
T	H	R	U		L	U	A	U		A	R	E
C	O	O	P		E	A	R	N		C	I	A
H	Y	D	E		A	N	T		S	T	A	R
			R	P	M		Y	O	U			
C	A	N	V	A	S		H	U	P	E	E	S
A	G	A	I	N				G	E	N	R	E
T	O	N	S	I	L		T	H	R	E	A	T
			O	C	A		I	I	S			
D	O	U	R		H	U	G		O	R	S	O
E	G	G		S	O	P	H		N	E	O	N
A	L	L		I	R	O	I		I	D	O	L
F	E	Y		Y	E	N	S		C	O	N	Y

Saturday's answer 4-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 14; Kristen Stewart, 22; Leighton Meester, 26; Dennis Quaid, 58.

Happy Birthday: You have great insight and the ability to turn a negative experience into something positive. Showcase your strengths and follow your heart in matters that can change your life financially, personally and physically. Believe in your talents and skills and you will be able to turn something you love to do into a lucrative venture. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 24, 26, 34, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get personal paperwork in order. You will discover assets you didn't know you had. A contract or commitment will pan out if you make your requests simple, fair and non-negotiable. Your confidence will be impressive. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Learn from the challenges you face. A partnership will help you recognize your talents and determine what you want to contribute, as well as what you prefer to use on your own. Emotional blackmail is apparent and must be stifled quickly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): An honest assessment of your current situation, status or position must be considered before you decide to make a change that might not be appropriate. Anxiety, pressure and uncertainty will cloud your view if you refuse to own up to past mistakes. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Utilize your ideas and keen sense of awareness when it comes to your reputation and professional progress. Your contribution will separate you from the competition. Don't expect to please everyone, especially those jealous of your talent and skills. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Implement change and diversity into everything you do if you want to get ahead. Challenge anyone who gets in your way, and be prepared to take on additional responsibilities if it will help you get what you want. Love looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Problems with partnerships are apparent. Retreat and think about the consequences before you say or do something you might regret. Don't lend or borrow money or possessions if you don't want to jeopardize a relationship. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't fall for a sales pitch promising the impossible. You have to be smart about the changes you make as well as how much you are willing to spend to get what you want. Love is prevalent, but confusion may lead you astray. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look at money and legal issues carefully. A problem regarding your residence and overhead must be taken care of immediately. Someone may try to take advantage of you financially. Make personal changes that will secure your position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick to the truth. You have to be able to live with the decisions you make. Love is in the stars, but so is temptation. Choose whom you spend your time with carefully. A poor choice will lead to emotional problems. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't worry about what others do. Follow your own path and come up with your own plans. A creative idea can turn into a profitable endeavor. Make room at home to pursue a project that excites you. Channel your energy constructively. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Strive for greater stability financially, emotionally and physically. What you do to improve your surroundings will help your outlook and provide you with greater incentive to reach your goals. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will learn by observing what others do. Strike up a conversation with someone who has information that will help you get ahead. An unusual partnership will emerge if you are willing to make the changes requested. Think outside the box. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have heart and soul. You are creative, unique and passionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2					7	1		5
	4		8					
9		3			5		6	8
			7	3				6
8								2
	1				9	6		
	5	1			8		4	
						4		3
	9		5	2				7

Difficulty Level ★ 4/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	6	3	8	5	2	4	9
2	3	9	4	1	6	8	5	7
8	5	4	7	9	2	6	3	1
5	7	1	9	6	8	3	2	4
3	9	2	5	7	4	1	8	6
4	6	8	2	3	1	7	9	5
1	4	7	8	5	3	9	6	2
6	2	3	1	4	9	5	7	8
9	8	5	6	2	7	4	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CARY CARTER (1954-2012) **Solution: 7 letters**

M	W	M	B	D	L	E	I	F	A	M	E	A	C	L
S	O	I	A	E	G	N	A	R	O	S	K	C	U	D
A	R	N	T	T	G	A	M	E	S	R	E	Y	L	F
I	L	O	T	A	D	L	H	C	A	O	C	L	V	U
S	D	R	I	R	S	N	O	S	E	S	A	B	E	L
U	S	L	N	T	E	S	U	V	L	Ⓑ	T	S	R	L
H	E	E	G	R	Y	A	I	M	E	Ⓛ	C	T	C	E
T	R	A	N	A	A	C	L	S	D	Ⓤ	H	G	I	R
N	I	G	I	I	L	A	A	E	T	Ⓔ	E	I	T	T
E	E	U	T	N	P	B	Y	P	X	S	R	A	Y	O
W	S	E	T	I	D	L	O	G	T	P	R	N	T	N
Y	T	S	I	N	T	H	G	I	R	A	O	T	F	E
O	E	T	H	G	I	E	D	I	K	E	I	S	I	V
R	M	A	N	A	G	E	R	U	N	S	N	N	F	E
K	T	I	R	G	A	R	Y	C	A	R	T	E	R	S

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Assists, Baseball, Bases, Batting, Blue, Captain, Carter, Catcher, Coach, Culver City, Ducks, Edmund, Energy, Enthusiasm, Fame, Field, Fifty, Flyers, Fullerton, Game, Gary, Giants, Glove, Gold, Grit, Hitting, Kid Eight, Manager, Mets, Minor Leagues, Montreal Expos, New York, Orange, Play, Rated, Right, Runs, Seven, Training, World Series

Last Saturday's Answer: Symbolism

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 (each 500 puzzles) $15 (includes postage) payable to Universal Uclick. Send to: (specify volume) Puzzle Collection, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-6479. Order online at www.puzzles.com. Contains 61 puzzles. 8½" x 11" format. Jr. ages 8 & up.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

PIC's Point Break flowrider will be closed for planned repair and maintenance from April 9~27, 2012. We apologize for the inconvenience during this time and thank you for your cooperation and patronage.

PIC Management

WHATZIT Solution: Change of address

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement
JVA No. 12-009

Opening Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, April 13, 2012

Janitor and Cleaner

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Administrative Officer or his/her designee. Monitor building security and safety by performing such tasks as locking doors after operating hours and checking electrical appliance use to ensure that hazards are not created. Service, clean, or supply restrooms. Gather and empty trash. Clean building floors by sweeping, mopping, scrubbing, or vacuuming. Follow procedures for the use of chemical cleaners and power equipment to prevent damage to floors and fixtures. Mix water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions, according to specifications. Strip, seal, finish, and polish floors. Notify managers concerning the need for major repairs or additions to building operating systems. Requisition supplies or equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties. Clean windows, glass partitions, or mirrors, using soapy water or other cleaners, sponges, or squeegees. Dust and polish all furnishings. Refill all toiletries and other restroom supplies. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: CUC Facilities Throughout: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
Salary: $10,504.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
Position(s): Two (2).
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE. Knowledge of: proper operation and safety with air compressors, floor buffers or waxing machines, personnel lifting and/or climbing equipment, vacuum cleaners. Ability: Lift up to 70 pounds occasionally. Skills in: Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. License: **Must already have a U.S. driver's license.**

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

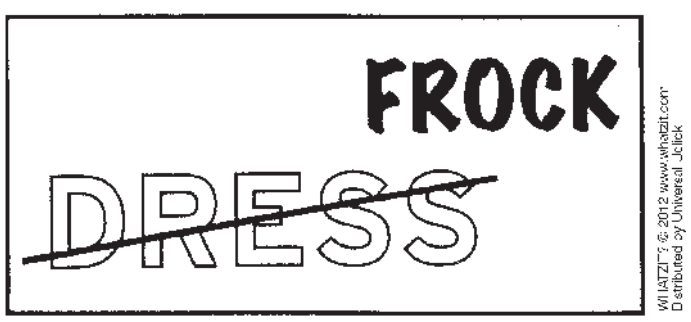
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Hanson holds off charge by Mickelson at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Phil Mickelson set off roars at Augusta National with a 20-foot eagle putt for a share of the lead, and an amazing flop shot behind the 15th green that only he would dare try.

Peter Hanson answered with four birdies on his last five holes, claiming some of those cheers for himself and taking the outright lead Saturday in the Masters with a 7-under 65, the lowest score of the tournament.

What a finish—and it's all just beginning.

"Fortune favors the brave at times here," Padraig Harrington said.

"When you're leading a tournament, that's not the type of golf course you want to be on," he added. "You want to be on probably a boring golf course—which this ain't."

That much was evident on a day filled with cheers from every corner, a prelude for a final round that would figure to favor Mickelson.

Hanson, a 34-year-old Swede playing in only his second Masters, has never been closer than seven shots of the leaders in his previous 17 majors. He goes into Sunday with a one-shot lead over Mickelson, who already has three green jackets.

Hanson passed his first test.

He was walking up the 14th fairway when he heard a commotion that shook Augusta. He knew what it was without looking—Mickelson draining an eagle putt on the 13th hole, raising the putter with his right arm and slamming down his left fist to celebrate along with 15,000 of his best friends.

"I'm standing in the middle of the fairway and I feel him breathing down my neck a little bit," Hanson said.

Hanson followed with an approach into 2 feet for birdie, a 15-foot putt from the fringe on the 15th, a 30-foot birdie putt over the ridge on the 17th and one last birdie at the 18th with a shot that stopped inside 3 feet from the cup.

He was at 9-under 207.

"I've been watching this tournament since I was a young kid, and seeing Freddie Couples and the guys go and shoot 30 and 31 on the back nine is something you just dream about," Hanson said.

Mickelson shot 30 on the back and signed for a 66, putting him in the final group at the Masters for the fourth time in the last nine years. Lefty won the last three times he was in that spot.

"I love it here, and I love nothing more than being in the last group on Sunday at the Masters," Mickelson said. "It's the great thing in professional golf."

Mickelson gave the leaderboard some star power when so many others faded or, in the case of Tiger Woods, never came close to getting there. Woods now has gone 26 consecutive holes on the back nine at Augusta without a birdie. He had to settle for a 72 and was 12 shots behind, his largest 54-hole deficit ever at the Masters.

But he wasn't alone.

U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, who started the day one shot out of the lead, made double bogey from the trees on the first hole and it only got worse from there. He had three 6s on his card and went out in 42, finishing with a 77 that left him 10 shots behind. He played with Sergio Garcia, who shot 75. Neither made a birdie until No. 12, and they hugged each other on the green to celebrate.

Fred Couples, at 52 the oldest player atop the leaderboard going into the weekend at Augusta, bogeyed his first two holes and tried to stay in the game. He wound up with a 75 and was seven shots behind.

A win would give Mickelson his fourth green jacket, same as Woods and Arnold Palmer.

But this is far from a two-man race.

Former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen rode his sweet swing to a 69 and was only two shots behind. Bubba Watson birdied the last hole for a 70 and was three shots back, followed by Matt Kuchar, who joined Mickelson as the first players in 13 years to birdie the 18th hole each of the first three rounds.

The group at 4-under 212 included Lee Westwood (72) and Harrington, who shot 68 and summed up what awaits on Sunday.

"It's not the player that plays the most consistent that wins at the Masters. The player who plays probably some of the most exciting golf wins at the Masters," Harrington said. "It's not really a contest of fairways and greens. It's a bit more flamboyancy in it. You only have to look at the way Phil has won some of his majors. You've got to take on golf shots."

And to think Mickelson almost lost this Masters on the opening day.

With a lost ball and a triple bogey on the 10th hole, he was 4-over par through 12 holes on Thursday and hitting the ball in places even he had never seen at Augusta. Only his short game saved him that day, and he escaped with a 74.

He has been on the move ever since, and Lefty was at his best on Saturday.

If there was one shot that showed why he has an imagination unlike others, it came from behind the green on the par-5 15th. Moments earlier, Hanson was in about the same spot and played a conventional bump-and-run up the slope to a green that runs quickly toward the hole. Hanson went just over the green, and had to make a 15-foot putt.

Mickelson took out his 64-degree wedge—he carries that club for moments like this—and played a full flop shot that landed softly and trickled to 4 feet below the cup for a birdie.

How tough was the shot? Even Mickelson said it was risky.

"It was possible to slide underneath it, so I leveled out my weight a little bit so that I would not take too deep a divot and the ball popped up nicely," Mickelson said, describing the shot as if giving a clinic.

Hanson was on the 16th hole when all this unfolded.

"To be honest, I never saw that high flop shot from there," he said. "He's just amazing with the wedge and the way he plays those shots. When I ended up in that same spot on 15, I just sought the bump-and-run and get it past the hole and leave myself an uphill putt. He goes up and just hits a full swing and goes straight up in the air."

But it was a lesson for Hanson, especially for the final round: Don't watch, just play.

"He has a few shots around the green that I'm not even close to," Hanson said. "I just have to play my game and work around this golf course the absolute best I can."

First, he has to get through the night. Hanson expects that sleep won't come easily - not when you're in the lead for the first time in a major, with a green jacket on the line.

He has quietly risen to No. 25 in the world ranking, with a pair of top 5s in the World Golf Championships and a runner-up finish at the Qatar Masters. Hanson also has spent time in good company. He started working in the offseason with coach Gary Gilchrist, who also teaches Yani Tseng, the No. 1 player in women's golf.

The last time he was in a twosome with Mickelson was at Celtic Manor, and timing could not have been worse. Mickelson had just set an American record for most losses in the Ryder Cup, and he had not contributed a point all week.

"He came out so hungry and desperate to win," Hanson said. "He started off with four straight birdies. So I had no chance."

It's up for grabs Sunday—but not for everyone.

AP

Peter Hanson, of Sweden, reacts after making a birdie putt on the 17th hole during the third round of the Masters golf tournament Saturday, April 7, 2012, in Augusta, Ga.

Masters fans not thrilled by Woods' latest tantrum

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods' latest temper tantrum did not go over well with some fans at the Masters.

Woods caused a scene with his boorish behavior at buttoned-down Augusta National on Friday, scowling, cursing, tossing clubs. He even went so far as to give one a swift kick after his shot on the 16th tee landed in the bunker.

"It's not what you want to see," said Charles Hatcher III, who was at the course on Saturday with his 11-year-old son, Charles IV, and his father, Charles Sr. "Golf is a gentleman's game, and you should treat it as such."

Especially at Augusta.

The home of the Masters oozes decorum. Members wear their green jackets no matter how high the temperatures climb; there are no garish video boards or corporate logos to take away from the simple beauty of the shrubs and the Georgia pines. "Patrons" know their golf and their history, and show a proper appreciation for both.

"I'm not making excuses, trust me. What he's been through—largely brought on by himself—and not playing up to expectations, and the expectations he puts on himself, it's hard sometimes to keep your emotions in check," said two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange, working as a broadcaster at the Masters. "With that said, you have to be somewhat aware of the stage you're on.

"This isn't Bay Hill or even some other tournament event," Strange said. "This is the Masters."

Expectations that Woods would win a fifth green jacket skyrocketed two weeks ago when he won at Bay Hill - his first PGA Tour victory in 30 months. But his chances began imploding with a flurry of wayward tee shots, blocked approaches and missed putts from close range.

As his game melted down, so did he. He cursed the bad shots or took mock swings in anger—sometimes doing both. He hung his head or looked skyward with exasperation after the missed putts. He flipped clubs and, after that poor tee shot on 16, booted his 9-iron about 15 yards.

Diego Maradona would have been proud. Ben Hogan, not so much.

"Am I conscious of it? No," Woods said after Saturday's round, in which he limited himself to glares and one angry toss. "Certainly I'm frustrated at times. I apologize if I offend anybody by that. But I've hit some bad shots. It's certainly frustrating at times not to hit the ball where you need to hit it."

This was hardly the first glimpse of Woods' temper. It's easy to gauge his level of frustration at any tournament by reading his lips after a bad shot or two. Last year at Augusta National he cursed so much CBS would have been justified if it had used a "parental discretion is advised" disclaimer.

Fans, however, expected to behold a new, improved Woods when he returned from the sex scandal that cost him his marriage and nearly two years of a magnificent career, promising to respect the game and the fans who pay dearly to watch him play.

"You couldn't even think of Jack (Nicklaus) doing something like this," Jon Hayden said. "It's egregious."

Hatcher said he still recalls hearing Arnold Palmer tell the story of losing his temper during a tournament early in his career, and his father being so horrified he threatened to never let his son play again.

Now 47, Hatcher was 15 when he heard Palmer speak.

"Feet of clay," Hatcher's father said. "We all have them."

Phoenix Suns crush Kobe-less Lakers, 125-105

AP

Phoneix Suns' Marcin Gortat (4), of Poland, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol, of Spain, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, April 7, 2012, in Phoenix.

PHOENIX (AP)— Shannon Brown scored 20 of his 24 points in the third quarter Saturday night, leading the Phoenix Suns to a 125-105 victory over a Los Angeles Lakers team playing without Kobe Bryant for the first time in two seasons.

An injured left shin ended Bryant's string of 138 consecutive regular-season games played. The NBA's leading scorer watched the Suns' reserves dominate the second quarter, then Brown go off against his former team in the third.

Michael Redd scored 17 of his 20 points in the second quarter for the Suns in their highest-scoring game of the season.

Pau Gasol had 30 points and 13 rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 23 points and 18 boards for the Lakers, who surrendered the most points they have allowed this season.

Celtics 86, Pacers 72

In Indianapolis, Paul Pierce scored 24 points to help Boston beat Indiana.

Ray Allen added 19 points, Kevin Garnett scored 15 and Rajon Rondo had 12 assists for the Celtics. Boston snapped a two-game skid and remained ahead of the Philadelphia 76ers at the top of the Atlantic Division.

Danny Granger scored 20 points, David West had 16 and Roy Hibbert added nine points and 17 rebounds for Indiana.

Hawks 116, Bobcats 96

In North Carolina, Joe Johnson scored 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting, and eight Atlanta players scored in double digits.

The Hawks broke open the game in the third quarter by shooting 17 of 23 from the field while scoring a season-high 38 points. They won their third straight and remained in second place in the Southeast Division, ahead of the struggling Orlando Magic.

Zaza Pachulia had 12 points and 16 rebounds, while Jannero Pargo had 15 points and nine assists for the Hawks. Ivan Johnson added 17 points.

Hornets 99, Timberwolves 90

In Orleans, Jason Smith had a career-high 26 points and 10 rebounds, leading New Orleans past struggling Minnesota.

Smith, who had his third career double-double, made his first eight shots and finished 12 for 16. Chris Kaman added 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting and Greivis Vasquez had 10 assists for New Orleans, which bounced back from its most lopsided loss of the year—128-104 at San Antonio on Friday.

Grizzlies 94, Mavericks 89

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 25 points, Zach Randolph added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Memphis built a big early lead and held on to beat Dallas.

Gilbert Arenas added 14 points and made three 3-pointers, while Mike Conley finished with 12 points for Memphis, which won its second straight and seventh in the last nine games.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 17 points and eight rebounds, and Brandan Wright added 16 points. Vince Carter had 14 points, while Shawn Marion finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds in the Mavericks' second straight loss.

Bucks 116, Trail Blazers 94

In Milwaukee, Beno Udrih scored a season-high 21 points, Brandon Jennings also added 21, and Milwaukee beat Portland to tighten the race for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Ersan Ilyasova chipped in 20 points for Milwaukee, which moved within a half-game of idle New York with its fourth straight victory. The Bucks are .500 (28-28) for the first time since they were 2-2 on Jan. 2.

LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 21 points for Portland.

Magic 88, Sixers 82

In Philadelphia, Dwight Howard had 20 points and 22 rebounds, and Glen Davis had 23 points and 12 rebounds to help Orlando snap its five-game losing streak.

J.J. Redick scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Magic pushed aside the lingering rift between Howard and coach Stan Van Gundy to win for the first time since March 26.

Led by Howard, the Magic outrebounded the Sixers 53-41. Howard had 13 defensive boards.

Thaddeus Young scored 20 points, Jodie Meeks had 16 and Lou Williams 15 for Philadelphia. The Sixers have lost nine of their last 13 games and are in serious danger of missing a playoff spot after leading the Atlantic Division for most of the season.

Clippers 109, Kings 94

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Randy Foye scored 25 points while hitting seven 3-pointers, and the surging Clippers moved within a half-game of the Pacific Division lead.

Chris Paul had 19 points and 15 assists in the Clippers' eighth win in nine games overall and their second in three days over the Kings, sweeping the season series with their California rivals. The Clippers (34-22) are right behind the Lakers (35-22), who lost at Phoenix, for the division lead and the No. 3 playoff seed.

Warriors 112, Nuggets 97

In Oakland, David Lee had 17 points and nine rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors got a big lift from their reserves to put a dent in Denver's playoff hopes.

Reserves Brandon Rush added 20 points, Nate Robinson had 14 points and seven assists, and Richard Jefferson scored 10 points to help the Warriors to a rare blowout victory at home.

Denver could have moved into the sixth spot in the Western Conference with a win, but instead dropped into the No. 8 seed, a half-game behind Houston and Dallas.

Tigers devour Red Sox

DETROIT (AP)— Prince Fielder hit his first two home runs with the Detroit Tigers and Miguel Cabrera added a pair of his own in a 10-0 rout of the Boston Red Sox on Saturday.

Fielder signed a $214 million, nine-year deal with Detroit in the offseason, forming a powerful middle of the order with Cabrera that was on full display against Red Sox starter Josh Beckett (0-1). Cabrera opened the scoring in the first inning with a two-run shot to left-center, and Fielder added a solo homer in the fourth to the same part of the ballpark.

Cabrera and Fielder hit back-to-back solo homers in the fifth.

Duane Below (1-0) got the win in relief after Detroit starter Doug Fister left in the fourth with a strain in his left side.

Royals 6, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Luke Hochevar took a shutout into the seventh inning and Kansas City got solo homers from Eric Hosmer and Mike Moustakas against Dan Haren in a victory over the Angels.

Albert Pujols got his first hit with Los Angeles, a double in the fourth.

Blue Jays 7, Indians 4, 12 innings

In Cleveland, Rajai Davis hit a two-run double in the 12th inning, Toronto rallied for the second straight game against Cleveland's bullpen and the Blue Jays beat the Indians in extra innings again.

Davis' hit off Tony Sipp (0-1) gave the Blue Jays a 5-3 lead and they held on to win another extra-inning game between the teams.

White Sox 4, Rangers 3

In Arlington Alex Rios led off the ninth inning with a home run and the Chicago White Sox got their first win for new manager Robin Ventura, beating the two-time defending American League champion Texas Rangers.

Rios homered off new Rangers closer Joe Nathan (0-1) who got a save with a perfect inning in the season opener a day earlier but entered a tie game this time.

Rays 8, Yankees 6

In Florida, Luke Scott had three hits and drove in three runs in his debut as Tampa Bay's designated hitter, helping the Rays beat the New York Yankees.

The Yankees trimmed a six-run deficit to two in the ninth, but Fernando Rodney came out of the bullpen to retire A-Rod on a first-pitch grounder.

Orioles 8, Twins 2

In Baltimore, Tommy Hunter took a four-hitter into the eighth inning, Nick Markakis went 3 for 4 with a homer and Baltimore cruised past Minnesota.

Adam Jones and Matt Wieters also homered for the Orioles, who will seek to complete a three-game sweep on Sunday.

After beating the Twins 4-2 on opening day, the Orioles went up 6-0 against Francisco Liriano (0-1) after four innings and coasted to the finish.

Mariners 8, Athletics 7

In Oakland, Chone Figgins finished a home run short of the cycle and every Mariners batter had a hit, backing a shaky start from ace Felix Hernandez to beat the Athletics.

Figgins' two-run double off Bartolo Colon (1-1) highlighted a six-run fourth-inning—helped by a center fielder Yoenis Cespedes misplaying a ball— to give Seattle a 7-0 lead. Ichiro Suzuki also had two hits and an RBI. The Mariners took the season-opening series 3-1—the first two games were played in Japan.

Nationals 7, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Adam LaRoche homered and matched a career high with four hits, and the Washington Nationals again rallied late against Kerry Wood and Carlos Marmol, scoring five runs in the eighth to beat the Chicago Cubs 7-4 on Sunday.

LaRoche drove a two-run shot off Matt Garza in the fourth. The Cubs chased Gio Gonzalez with three in the bottom half to go up 4-2.

Mets 4, Braves 2

In New York, Lucas Duda homered twice and became the first player to take advantage of the pulled-in fences at Citi Field, leading R.A. Dickey and the Mets over Atlanta.

David Wright kept hitting with a homer and two singles as the Mets improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2009.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 4

In Phoenix, Aaron Hill hit two homers, Chris Young had a pair of run-scoring doubles and the quick-striking Diamondbacks beat San Francisco.

The kings of the comeback last season, the Diamondbacks have been fast starters in 2012, scoring seven runs the first two innings their first two games.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 0

In Milwaukee, Corey Hart homered twice, Zack Greinke pitched four-hit ball for seven innings and the Brewers beat the Cardinals.

Rickie Weeks homered while Aramis Ramirez and Carlos Gomez added RBI doubles for the Brewers. Ryan Braun had a pair of doubles and drew a walk after going 0 for 5 on Friday.

Pirates 2, Phillies 1, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Alex Presley singled with two outs in the bottom of the 10th to lift the Pirates over Philadelphia.

Rod Barajas, brought in by the Pirates to provide some power, doubled off Philadelphia reliever Joe Blanton (0-1) leading off the inning and pinch-runner Mike McKenry came home three batters later when Presley beat out an infield single.

Astros 7, Rockies 3

In Houston, the National League's youngest team gave baseball's oldest player fits.

J.D. Martinez homered and drove in three runs and the Astros beat 49-year-old Jamie Moyer and the Rockies.

Jordan Schafer homered leading off for the Astros and Martinez's two-run shot in the fourth made it 3-0.

Marlins 8, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Giancarlo Stanton led Miami out of its early slump, getting three hits and driving in three runs, and the Marlins beat the Cincinnati Reds for their first victory of the season.

Omar Infante, Hanley Ramirez and John Buck homered for the Marlins. Infante also had a double and a triple. With a chance to become the first Marlin to hit for the cycle, Infante flied out in the ninth inning.

Dodgers 6, Padres 5, 11 innings

In San Diego, Dee Gordon singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 11th inning and the Dodgers, who blew a five-run lead in the fifth, beat San Diego for their third straight win.

It was Dee's third hit of the night. He also walked twice, stole three bases and scored twice.

IT&E Voyagers win, hold two-game lead in Agingan

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers are clinging to a two-game lead in the Agingan division while Joe's Steakhouse's Fotten Palau holds a six-game cushion in the Obyan field after last week's games in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

IT&E Voyagers romped Jonny's Team SCS (64-72), 14-3, in an inter-league home draw to improve their record to 107-29. The third-ranked New Saipan Aluminum's (85-51) Hustlers helped the frontrunners stay in the lead after the latter pulled off an upset over the Docomo Pacific Homeboyz (105-31), 9-8, at Utopia Sports Bar.

In other Agingan results, the fourth-ranked Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's IT&E Incredibles (84-52) mounted an 11-6 victory over Obyan's Shark Attack (63-73), of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, dropping the latter in fourth place, while Joe's Ocean Warriors (70-66) defeated 19th Hole's Poksu (49-87), 11-6, in an inter-league home match.

Obyan leader Fotten Palau went to Poseidon and downed Yang Ku (54-82), 11-6, to improve to a 72-64 record.

Notably, 19th Hole Bar's Titans (66-70) dunked The Waterfront, 15-2, at home to move up to second place, while Crazy 8 (62-74) minced up a shorthanded Bammy's Boom Boom (36-100), 17-0, at Jonny's. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	24	.564	—
Philadelphia	29	26	.527	2
New York	28	27	.509	3
Toronto	20	36	.357	11 1/2
New Jersey	20	37	.351	12

Southeast Division

x-Miami	39	15	.722	—
Atlanta	34	23	.596	6 1/2
Orlando	33	23	.589	7
Washington	12	44	.214	28
Charlotte	7	47	.130	32

Central Division

x-Chicago	43	13	.768	—
Indiana	34	22	.607	9
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	15
Detroit	21	34	.382	21 1/2
Cleveland	18	35	.340	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	39	14	.736	—
Memphis	32	23	.582	8
Houston	30	25	.545	10
Dallas	31	26	.544	10
New Orleans	15	41	.268	25 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	40	15	.727	—
Denver	30	26	.536	10 1/2
Utah	29	27	.518	11 1/2
Portland	27	30	.474	14
Minnesota	25	32	.439	16

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	35	22	.614	—
L.A. Clippers	34	22	.607	1/2
Phoenix	29	27	.518	5 1/2
Golden State	22	33	.400	12
Sacramento	19	37	.339	15 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Boston 86, Indiana 72
New Orleans 99, Minnesota 90
Memphis 94, Dallas 89
Atlanta 116, Charlotte 96
Orlando 88, Philadelphia 82
Milwaukee 116, Portland 94
Phoenix 125, L.A. Lakers 105
Golden State 112, Denver 97
L.A. Clippers 109, Sacramento 94

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	2	0	1.000	—
Tampa Bay	2	0	1.000	—
Toronto	2	0	1.000	—
Boston	0	2	.000	2
New York	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

Detroit	2	0	1.000	—
Chicago	1	1	.500	1
Kansas City	1	1	.500	1
Cleveland	0	2	.000	2
Minnesota	0	2	.000	2

West Division

Seattle	3	1	.750	—
Los Angeles	1	1	.500	1
Texas	1	1	.500	1
Oakland	1	3	.250	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	2	0	1.000	—
Washington	2	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	1	1	.500	1
Miami	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Atlanta	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

St. Louis	2	1	.667	—
Cincinnati	1	1	.500	1/2
Houston	1	1	.500	1/2
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1/2
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	1/2
Chicago	0	2	.000	1 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	3	0	1.000	—
Arizona	2	0	1.000	1/2
Colorado	1	1	.500	1 1/2
San Francisco	0	2	.000	2 1/2
San Diego	0	3	.000	3

Yesterday's Games
Toronto 7, Cleveland 4, 12 innings
Detroit 10, Boston 0
Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 3
Baltimore 8, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Yankees 6
Chicago White Sox 4, Texas 3
Seattle 8, Oakland 7
Washington 7, Chicago Cubs 4
N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 6, St. Louis 0
Arizona 5, San Francisco 4
Houston 7, Colorado 3
Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 1, 10 innings
Miami 8, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Diego 5, 11 innings

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Scores Saturday from the Masters, played at the 7,435-yard, par-72 Augusta National Golf Club.

Third Round
(a-amateur)

Peter Hanson	68-74-65—207
Phil Mickelson	74-68-66—208
Louis Oosthuizen	68-72-69—209
Bubba Watson	69-71-70—210
Matt Kuchar	71-70-70—211
Padraig Harrington	71-73-68—212
Hunter Mahan	72-72-68—212
Henrik Stenson	71-71-70—212
Lee Westwood	67-73-72—212
Paul Lawrie	69-72-72—213
Fred Couples	72-67-75—214
Ben Crane	69-73-72—214
Jason Dufner	69-70-75—214
Sean O'Hair	73-70-71—214
Fredrik Jacobson	76-68-70—214
Francesco Molinari	69-75-70—214
Ian Poulter	72-72-70—214
Nick Watney	71-71-72—214
Sang-Moon Bae	75-71-69—215
Jonthan Byrd	72-71-72—215
Jim Furyk	70-73-72—215
Sergio Garcia	72-68-75—215
Brandt Snedeker	72-75-68—215
Charles Howell III	72-70-74—216
Justin Rose	72-72-72—216
Webb Simpson	72-74-70—216
Miguel Angel Jimenez	69-72-76—217
a-Hideki Matsuyama	71-74-72—217
Rory McIlroy	71-69-77—217
Geoff Ogilvy	74-72-71—217
Scott Stallings	70-77-70—217
Kevin Chappell	71-76-71—218
Graeme McDowell	75-72-71—218
Kevin Na	71-75-72—218
Adam Scott	75-70-73—218
Vijay Singh	70-72-76—218
Y.E. Yang	73-70-75—218
Aaron Baddeley	71-71-77—219
Zach Johnson	70-74-75—219
Tiger Woods	72-75-72—219
Angel Cabrera	71-78-71—220
Rickie Fowler	74-74-72—220
Steve Stricker	71-77-72—220
Anders Hansen	76-72-73—221
David Toms	73-73-75—221
Keegan Bradley	71-77-73—221
Ross Fisher	71-77-73—221
Bill Haas	72-74-76—222
Martin Kaymer	72-75-75—222
Martin Laird	76-72-74—222
Charl Schwartzel	72-75-75—222
Thomas Bjorn	73-76-74—223
a-Patrick Cantlay	71-78-74—223
Luke Donald	75-73-75—223
Bo Van Pelt	73-75-75—223
Scott Verplank	73-75-75—223
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	74-75—76—225
Trevor Immelman	78-71-76—225
Robert Karlsson	74-74-77—225
Edoardo Molinari	75-74-76—225
a-Kelly Kraft	74-75-77—226
Stewart Cink	71-75-81—227
Gary Woodland	73-70-85—WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW

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crown to Guam's Chloe Gadsden, earned a return trip to the finals after a 6-0, 6-1 win over Julia Ishikawa. In the other semis pairing, Lee boosted her chances for a second junior singles title when she topped Emily Jones, 6-1, 6-2.

In the boys U15, Chris Cajigan missed the Top 4 last season and returned this year with a tough title win against Carl Dela Cruz. Cajigan opened the finals with a big 6-0 victory, but fell short in the second set, losing to Dela Cruz, 5-7. Then in the deciding third set, Cajigan recovered with a 6-2 victory. Cajigan entered the finals after a 6-2, 6-1 win over Seiya Eda, while the top-seeded Dela Cruz followed suit after disposing Dylan Ackerman, 6-4, 6-3.

Joining the new set of champions in Week 1 of the two-weekend PIC tournament were U18's Christian Miller and Theecel Minor.

Miller, who played in the boys U15 last season, was seeded third in the U18, earned a bye in the first round, and then downed the No. 2 seed Daniel Park in the semis, 6-1, 6-3. In the finals, Miller was paired against the unranked Jake Lee, who incidentally bowed to the former in last year's U15 finale, and the latter lost anew in yesterday's title match. Lee took the opening set, 6-4, but Miller stole the last two, 6-2, 6-4, to win the U18 crown. Lee's another defeat to Miller came a day after he stunned the top-seeded Amami Sakano in the semis, 6-2, 6-3.

The girls U18 division was only a two-player battle with Minor cruising past Alina Ishikawa, 6-4, 6-4. Theecel's sister, Thea, was last year's girls U18 winner, while Rafael Jones, who is off-island, won the 2011 boys crown.

TRIATHLON

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from Saipan, clocking in at 3:17:22. Morris also joined the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon, teaming up with John Jenkins and doing the swim leg of the road race.

Carey competed both in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman and in XTERRA Guam. She started the busy month with a fourth-place finish in XTERRA Guam and then had another Top 4 ranking in XTERRA Saipan. In Tagaman, she moved up to third, beating XTERRA champion Renata Bucher.

Toda was the youngest participant in the solo races both in XTERRA and Tagaman at 14 years old. The Saipan Southern High School student joined XTERRA Sport and won his age group after clocking in at 2:17:14. Then the following week, he completed the longer Tagaman race in 4:21:10.

Mendoza played for Marianas High School, which competed in the annual Settsu-Saipan friendship basketball tournament. Mendoza's Lady Dolphins went on to lose the championship against the Japanese visitors, but she earned the Most Valuable Player award after consistently leading MHS' offense.

Mizer also played in the Settsu-Saipan competition, suiting up for the MISO All-Stars, who won the boys championship against 2010 winner Kagman High School. The big man was at the forefront of both the offense and defense of the MISO All-Stars, helping the team win the championship for the first time.

Mizer also played for the Saipan Southern High School in last month's MISO varsity caging and led the Rays to a third place finish behind champion Tinian High School and runner-up MHS.

All five March awardees are now qualified for the 2012 NMASA athletes (students and male and female) of the year awards.

SPORTS

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best way to that is to have them involved in various sports. We will bring up this matter to our various members and the Public School System," the NMASA head said.

The assistance should be open to both the public and private schools in the Commonwealth, Gabriel White added. He said athletes suiting up for CNMI teams that are competing in off-island tournaments come from schools here, so giving them a strong foundation is very crucial in their success. White added that there are teachers who are willing to give time to coach their students but they must also get proper guidance and pointers from experts, such as the coaches/officials of various CNMI sports groups.

"Right now, MISO is trying its best to work out a program for our high schools students by holding various leagues and coordinating with the different local sports groups," Gabriel White said.

MISO has its boys and girls soccer, basketball, volleyball, and canoe contests. BANMI and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association are providing assistance in MISO's soccer and basketball leagues, while NMIVA helped MISO run last season's boys and girls volleyball. Next month, MISO will have its outrigger canoe racing season.

Asked if funding will be available if national federations reach out to schools, Gabriel White told those present at the meeting that he believed there are grants that could be tapped for this function.

Gabriel White added that it will be great if the leadership of the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association will work together with MISO to form a unified and strong school system sports competition.

Right now, COPSSA is running its own tournaments and setting its own competition rules, although there are a few schools (Saipan International School and Grace Christian Academy) also joining MISO events.

ROOKIES

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helm again this year and remain the only undefeated teams in the men's field.

Behind them are the Manelos (3-1), Your Balls (3-1), Berdax (3-2), Gagu Eyez (3-2), Elias (2-1), X-clusive (3-3), Six Pack (2-2), Familia (2-3), G-Ballers (2-3), SaiPal (2-4), The Warriors (1-3), Talu Fahn (1-5) and Managaha (0-5).

Check It Out has extended its streak to four and leads the women's field by two games. The defending champion Sakudi is in second place with an even 2-2 record, while the 670 Babes (1-2), Rookies, and Enamo Meta (1-3) all still within range.

Six Pack 24, Berdax 23

Six Pack managed a 7-1 lead through three frames, however Berdex threatened, 14-15, after the fourth inning.

Berdax cranked out 12 hits including a pair of home runs by Franco Flores and Alingmar Ogumoro, but Six Pack maintained the slight edge with eight runs off six hits in the bottom frame. Tom Joab smashed a two-RBI base hit, Melvin Aldan and DJ Omar bagged RBI singles, and Lucian George had RBI double.

Six Pack remained in front, 19-17, in the fifth off another six hits, before Berdax responded with six runs in the top of the seventh off a pair of two-RBIs singles by Jack Guerrero and Chad Atalig. However, Six Pack bit down with two outs in the bottom frame to pull out the win.

Natibu 18, Talu Fahn 9

Natibu went ahead 12-4, but Talu Fahn did not go away and was still in the game, 8-14, after the fourth inning.

Then two leadoff walks set up a pair of RBI singles from Bruce Norita and Oscar Secharmedal and a two-RBI double from Aaron Benavente to give Natibu more distance. The other runs came in off a base smash by JR Suel and errors.

Talu Fahn's offense dwindled in the late innings as it only managed one run to start the fifth, while Natibu added four more runs in the bottom frame from a double by Jerry Guerrero, a two-run blast by Jess Tagabuel and a sacrifice fly by Victor Salas.

Elias 14, G-Ballers 13

Elias went ahead, 3-2, off a sacrifice fly by Rodney Camacho in the bottom of the second inning. Each team had a two-run homer early in the match.

The G-Ballers claimed he lead, 6-3, in the top of the third inning off a three-run blast by Paul Salalila and an error. Then the count shifted to 12-6, still for G-Ballers, as both teams put up six runs in the fourth inning.

Elias roared back to within a run in the bottom of the fifth with six hits, including an RBI single by Ben Tagabuel, a three-run homer by Glenn Camacho and a solo shot by JP Sablan. As the G-Ballers engine stalled for the second time in a row, Elias snuck in front, 13-12, in the sixth off an error and a sacrifice fly by Jordan Tagabuel.

The G-Ballers' Salalila tied the match with one swing in the top of the seventh inning, but Elias was gifted the win off an error early in the bottom frame.

X-clusive 23, Familia 13

X-clusive built an early 3-1 edge in the first frame off a pair of long balls by Jack Delos Santos and Vince Cepeda and jumped further ahead, 10-3, in the bottom of the second off five hits. McQueen Masaharu hit two-RBI single, Ben Sablan had an RBI base knock, and Mike Manas made a grand slam.

The count shifted to 12-8, in the third after a pair of two-RBI smashes by Familia's Shaun Iguel and Lawrence Dikito. X-clusive's runs came from a pair of RBI singles by John Acosta and Masaharu in the bottom frame.

X-clusive remained in control, 16-10, after the fourth frame with another five hits in the bottom half of the inning. Familia managed a couple runs via sacrifice flies, while X-clusives' Cepeda nailed a two-RBI single before being driven home by Dennis Ngeskebei. Familia's Kolin Reyes left the yard for three runs to start the fifth, but X-clusive produced the seven runs needed for the early decision in the bottom frame.

Man Amigos 19, SaiPal 4

Man Amigos put up eight runs as they batted through the lineup in the first inning. Manny Sablan bashed a three-run homer and Jeff Cabrera hammered a two-run shot.

They then catapulted ahead, 19-0, in the top of the second doff another dozen hits and a sacrifice fly by Eric Palacios. Jerry Ayuyu ripped an RBI triple, Sablan, Ben Jones, John Terlaje, and Vinnie Sablan bagged RBI singles, and Manny Sablan lifted another three-run bomb late in the onslaught.

SaiPal mustered its four runs in the bottom frame before Man Amigos closed shop three innings early.

Weekend Sports

Tagaman caps exciting races on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Triathlon still ruled the week with the staging of the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon, the final leg of Saipan's trifecta of races.

United Kingdom pro Jacqui Slack and France's Cedric Lassonde topped Tagaman, leaving Saipan with a win after falling short in XTERRA Saipan, Guam, and the Philippines. Tagaman completed the island's trio of March races, which included the Saipan Marathon and XTERRA Saipan.

Slack pulled off an upset over Switzerland's Renata Bucher, Austria's Carina Wasle, and Saipan's very own Mieko Carey. In the men's division, Lassonde also stunned his favored foe—Australia's Ben Allen, who swept the three XTERRA races in March before fatigue took its toll on him in Tagaman.

Besides the off-island triathletes, local bets also proved their worth in Tagaman after winning their respective divisions. The age group winners include Tyce Mister, Kaisei Toda, Angelo Villagomez, and John Douglas, while Lewie Tenorio only placed second in his division, but was the first Saipan non-pro finisher.

In the relay, the trio of swimmer Kento Akimaru, biker Aldrin Sta. Ana, and runner Mamiko Oshima-Berger ruled the 13-squad field.

Other competitions on Saipan continued last week.

In the Saipan Major League, the Northern Yankees' Josh Jones was just one short of tying the SML record in strikeouts with his 21. He led the Yankees to a 15-1 demolition of the IT&E Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Still at the "Tan Ko" field, the Red Sox and Fielders recorded separate wins in the Junior League. Other winners include the Senior League's Ol'Aces and Hunters, while in the Majors at the "Tan Ge" field, the Braves, Commets, Ol'Aces, Enforcers, and Falcons topped their respective foes.

In soccer, MP United Silver completed the sweep of the first round of the boys U15 league after a 14-0 rout of the Tan Holdings FC last week. Matansa and Paire also won in the boys U15 game, while MP United and Paire triumphed in the boys U18.

In the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, the boys soccer and girls fast-pitch softball league kicked off, while Northern Marianas Athletics also started the All Schools qualifying tournaments.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Ol'Aces Harry Nakamura waits for the pitch during a game in the Big League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bikers head to Marpi during last week's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan's Joshua Berger heads out to the run course in last week's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Kagman High School's Zerah Castro delivers a pitch against Saipan Southern High School during the opening game in the MISO girls fast-pitch softball league last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A runner tries to catch up with the leaders during the 100m qualifying race in the All Schools meet last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tagaman participants pose with a spectator at the finish line area at Micro Beach.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire U18 players huddle before the start of their game against Matansa in the NMIFA youth league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

New winners in PIC jr. tennis tourney

Triathlon, basketball share honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Triathlon's Mieko Carey, Brian Morris, and Kaisei Toda and basketball's Christian Mizer and Jamie Mendoza were selected top performers for March during last week's NMASA meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Morris and Carey were name NMASA March Athletes of the Month, while Toda, Mizer, and Mendoza earned the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/ NMASA Student Athletes of the Month awards.

Morris got NMASA members' nod after his impressive race in last month's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship. The Hopwood Junior High School employee topped the 30 to 34 age group of the 1.5-kilometer swim, 32-km bike, and 12-km run and was the first male non-pro finisher

See TRIATHLON on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Jamie Mendoza, seen here pulling up for a jumper during a MISO basketball game last season, was named TSL Foundation/NMASA March Female Student Athlete of the Month.

Sports federations encouraged to assist public, private schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Local sports federations are encouraged to hold outreach programs to various schools in the CNMI to boost the skills of student-athletes and their coaches.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Island's Gabriel White, during the NMASA meeting last week, brought up the idea, saying that a lot of schools are waiting for assistance from local sports associations.

"These assistance include providing coaching clinic/seminars to teachers/ coaches and a separate clinic for students, and helping schools run their competitions," White said.

NMASA president Michael White and two other NMASA members present at the meeting supported Gabriel White's suggestion and the former said this matter will be discussed in the association's meeting next month.

"We want to get our children/students moving and the

See SPORTS on Page 26

Miller

Lee

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships produced a new set of winners after the games over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

In the girls U12 singles, Carol Lee emerged as the 2012 champion after topping the 12-player field. Lee was runner-up to Tammy Ackerman last year, but this time avoided another bridesmaid finish when she defeated Isabel Heras in the finals yesterday, 7-5, 6-2.

Lee advanced to the title game after shutting out Ami Tsukagoshi in the semis, 6-0, 6-0, while Heras took the other semis berth, following a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Julia Ishikawa. Grace Choi, Tania Tan, Catherine Atalig, who used to play in the U10 division, entered the U12 age group this year and won their first round matches, but lost in the second round, joining Kaga Conatsu, Mimi Sakano, Asia Raulerson, and Malika Miyawaki in the showers.

In the boys U12 singles, Luther Lizama redeemed himself from a semis loss last year when he swept Alex Park in the finals, 6-4, 6-1. Lizama, who bowed to last year's champion Colin Ramsey in the semis, was pitted against Steven Goodwin in the upper bracket semis and won, 8-2. Park was in the lower half of the 14-player draw and downed Clayton Izuka in the other semis pairing, 6-4, 6-0.

Izuka made it to the semis after beating Robert Schorr, 8-5, while Goodwin triumphed over Michael Jones, 8-2, to arrange a semis duel against Lizama.

In the four-player U15 girls singles, Mikayla Lopez also bounced back from a runner-up finish last season after a straight set win over Lee in the finals yesterday, 6-3, 6-0. Lopez, who lost the U15

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Rookies notch first win of season

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Rookies finally broke into the win column after pulling off an upset over Enamo Meta, 13-11, during last week's women's game in the Chamolinian Softball Association 2012 Budweiser Slow-Pitch League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Enamo Meta overcame an early 1-4 deficit in the opening frame and moved in front, 6-4, in the bottom of the second inning primarily off errors.

The Rookies cleaned up their game from the batters box and cranked out five hits in the top of the third to shoot ahead, 10-7. Nadine Camacho busted a two-RBI double and Connie Lizama bagged an RBI single. The Rookies added a run off a fielder's choice in the fourth and each team mustered a run in the fifth, shifting the count to, 12-8, heading into the final stand.

Enamo Meta loaded the bases with two outs, but the Rookies held strong for the win.

Meanwhile, a couple of nail-biters stood out in this week's men's pairings as Six Pack escaped past Berdax, 24-23, last Monday and Elias barely got away from the G-Ballers, 14-13, last Wednesday.

In other results, Natibu defeated Talu Fahn, 19-8, while X-cluisve downed Familia, 23-13, and Man Amigos spanked SaiPal, 19-4. Man Amigos (4-0) and Natibu (5-0), are at the

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Natibu's JR Suel bashes a two-run homer against Talu Fahn during their game in the Chamolinian league last Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.